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COLONIAL TRADE.

IF there is one thing more certain than another regarding the future export-trade of the United Kingdom it is that the population of our Empire beyond the seas will be our best customers. We back them up, buy their raw products, and they take our manufactures in exchange. This will go on increasingly, and, so far as THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is concerned, the encouragement of colonial trade has been one of its strong points from the outset, while through the annual Colonial Issue we give an exceptional opportunity for advertisers to increase their business with the colonies. This issue will be on April 30, and, in addition to those who receive it weekly, it will be sent to all buyers of druggists' goods in India, Burmah, Straits Settlements, South Africa, China, Japan, and the West Indies. The publisher will be happy to give any inquirer full information regarding this important issue.



MARK TWAIN's ideas about Kauri gum will be found on p. 432 along with ours.

OUR TOWN TRAVELLER reports upon several novelties which are to be seen in London (p. 435-7).

FEBRUARY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, as far as these relate to drugs and chemicals, are summed up on p. 439.

THE LAW which hampers the anti-cutting movement in France is explained by our Paris correspondent (p. 417).

THE diagnostic value of mallein as a test for glanders is endorsed by a number of veterinary authorities (p. 415).

THE CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' DINNER (p. 412), a Midland smoker (p. 413), the Edinburgh Chemists' Assistants' supper (p. 416), are among the festivities of the week.

THE OPINIONS of a number of wholesale druggists on the "aleoholic extract" question are given on p. 443, and we deal with the matter also in an editorial note (p. 439).

MR. A. L. DORAN thinks the Irish Pharmaceutical Council put a wrong interpretation on one of their examination regulations, but the Council maintain their views (p. 420).

THE DRUG-MARKETS have been dull this week, and there are few changes. We give special information about cod-liver oil and iodine. Atropine is 1s. 5d. per oz. dearer (p. 449).

THE DERBY CORONER describes a chemist as reckless, careless, and guilty of gross negligence, who sold a cough-mixture containing morphia, without registering it or labelling it poison (pp. 413 and 442).

A VALUABLE PRACTICAL PAPER on "The Pharmacy of Cantharides" was contributed by Professor Greenish and Mr. Harold Wilson at the evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society last Tuesday (p. 421).

WE REPORT A LECTURE by Mr. Robinson, M.P.S.I., on Pharmacy in Ireland to the Irish Pharmacists' Assistants' Association (p. 423); one on Drug-journals and their Advertisers (p. 426); and one on Poor-law Dispensers (p. 428).

INFORMATION about pharmacy-licences in the South African Republic and the Orange Free State is given in a letter sent to the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, and read at the last meeting of the Council (p. 420).

A SWISS CHEMIST sued an Englishman in the Margate County Court for an account he had incurred. The Englishman said he had paid the hotel-keeper, and that that was the custom of the country. The Judge supported that view (p. 445).

MR. S. WOODS, M.P., has raised the question of scheduling carbolic acid in the House of Commons. The Home Secretary says the Privy Council are preparing a Bill to deal with this and other poisons, but they will not schedule it under the Pharmacy Act (pp. 447 and 438).

MESSRS. ELLIMAN, SONS & CO. have obtained an injunction against a man who professed to sell their recipe for embrocation; the same person had been prohibited from selling a recipe for Yorkshire Relish, and was cautioned against disobedience to this order (p. 444).

THE PHARMACY BILL was read a second time in the House of Commons on Monday last (p. 447). The Manchester opposition was withdrawn after the President of the Pharmaceutical Society had had an interview with the leader of the Manchester malecontents (p. 412).

AMONG THE DEATHS recorded this week are those of Dr Ferdinand Hurter, technical director of the United Alkali Company, Mr. Hughes-Davies, of March, Cambs, an original member of the Pharmaceutical Society, and of Mr. R. H. Mitchell, a popular young Liverpool chemist (p. 419).



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

The Manchester Opposition to the Pharmacy Bill Abandoned.

The Pharmaceutical Defence Association, which originated in Manchester under the leadership of Mr. Walter Gibbons (Queen's chemist) and a few friends, and which received a great deal of support throughout the country, have determined, after the Chairman (Mr. Gibbons) had two long interviews with the President of the Pharmaceutical Society in London, to remove their opposition to the new Pharmacy Bill on grounds which may be said to be purely out of loyalty to their brother chemists. At a meeting of the Association held in Manchester since our last issue, Mr. Gibbons, in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That in consequence of the appeal made to us by the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, and with the assurances which we have received, not only from the official press, but from the utterance, public and otherwise, of prominent supporters of the Bill, that the true title and qualification of "Pharmaceutical chemist" will in the future be duly safeguarded, it is hereby resolved to withdraw our opposition to the said Bill." A letter was at the same meeting drawn up, and will be forwarded to the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, setting forth the views of the Association and the considerations which induced them to withdraw their opposition.

In an interview which our representative had with Mr. Gibbons on Wednesday, it transpired that that gentleman and a few of his friends recently interviewed a large number of members of the House of Commons on the subject of their opposition to the new Pharmacy Bill, and had secured promises of support to an amendment to the measure which it had been intended to bring forward during the committee stage of the Bill. This amendment, however, has now been withdrawn, and no opposition will be offered to the Bill by the Association, who have agreed to this course only in the hope that the Bill may benefit the chemists of the United Kingdom as a body.

Adulteration in the West Riding.

Mr. A. H. Allen, F.C.S., in his annual report as public analyst for the West Riding of Yorkshire, states that the year's analyses show a percentage of 32 adulterated samples, in addition to 58 per cent. which were adulterated to an insignificant extent, thus leaving 91 per cent. of samples to which exception was not taken. On the face of it the figures show a considerable decrease in the proportion of adulterated samples on any previous year, but the improvement in this respect, says Mr. Allen, is more apparent than real. Thus, of 638 samples of milk examined, in no fewer than 89 cases he was compelled to certify the milk to be of an inferior or suspiciously poor quality. In the majority of these cases there was little doubt that sophistication had been practised, but, for reasons already given, no positive condemnation was possible. The many rents made in the Food Acts by judicial decisions have also tended to prevent the administration of the law, and the difficulties have been enhanced by the defects of the current edition of the British Pharmacopoeia and by the attitude assumed by the chemists of the Inland Revenue Laboratory in the case of samples referred to them under the Act. Mr. Allen then refers at considerable length to the Government Bill for the amendment of the law, which he describes as having been disappointing, not only to public analysts, but to the community generally. Referring to details, Mr. Allen advocates that when warranties are pleaded in order to secure the conviction of the real offender, jurisdiction should be given to the Court before which the summons is heard to call the giver of a warranty before it, should the warranty exonerate the vendor; and

that proceedings should in such case be compulsorily instituted against the giver of the warranty. No warranty should be accepted if given by a person abroad or outside of such jurisdiction as it is possible to confer on the Court by Act of Parliament. He also strongly advocates the appointment of the Court of Reference suggested by the Select Committee, and that such Court should include one or more public analysts. At present each public analyst is left to decide what constitutes adulteration, what is injurious to health, and what limits or standards are to be adopted in judging the samples submitted. Questions of the greatest scientific intricacy are now fought out, more or less imperfectly, in open court, at the expense of the vendors or public authorities. The Court of Reference would solve many of these difficulties.

In his quarterly report for the three months ending December 31, 1897, Mr. Allen says he has during that period analysed and reported on 643 samples. One sample of olive oil he found to contain only 70 per cent. of olive oil, and the vendor was prosecuted and fined 10s., and 22s. 1d. costs. One sample of tincture of rhubarb contained only four-fifths of the B.P. proportion of alcohol and extractive matter, and the vendor was fined 10s., and costs. Another sample of the same drug was of only two-thirds of the B.P. alcoholic strength, and contained nearly 9 per cent. of saccharine matters. In this case a fine of 20s. and 24s. 4d. costs was imposed. A sample of paregoric was almost wholly destitute of opium, deficient in benzoic acid, and the alcohol only about two-thirds B.P. The fine imposed was 10s., and 22s. 1d. costs. In several samples of seidlitz-powders there was a material excess of sodium bicarbonate and a deficiency of tartarated soda. The fine was 2s. 6d., and 34s. 11d. costs. In another case the vendor of seidlitz-powders was cautioned for selling blue papers averaging 181 gr. instead of 160 gr.

The Custom of the Trade.

Dr. F. L. Teed, F.I.C., public analyst for Islington, in a report to the local vestry, states that he has found "the custom of the trade" to be to sell for "coffee," up to 1s. 6d. per pound, a mixture of half chicory and half coffee in a wrapper, marked "This is sold as a mixture of coffee and chicory." He says:—"If this perversion of the meaning of words goes much further, it will become necessary for tradesmen to compile a dictionary of their own, so that the simple-minded public may understand the meaning they attach to the words which, up to now, referred to unsophisticated foods. Demerara sugar is no longer that article, but yellow crystals, unless you ask for pure Demerara; butter is a mixture containing 10 per cent. of margarine unless you ask for 'pure' butter; whisky is a spirit (mostly potato), and adulterated with an unknown percentage of water, unless you ask for 'pure' whisky, when, as likely as not, you will be supplied with the same spirit, but at a strength of 25 under proof. Cocoa-powder is chocolate-powder (a mixture of sugar and coca), unless you ask for 'pure' cocoa; yellow wax is no longer beeswax, but carth-wax, unless you require it 'pure,' while paraffin-wax is unblushingly substituted for white wax, which is bleached beeswax; and so on. It is about time this subversion of English words was put an end to. It began with fraud, but now it is the 'custom of the trade.'"

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

The Chemists' Assistants' Association and their friends made a grand show with a company of about 250 in the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant, on March 3, under the presidency of Mr. Morley Taylor. This was the twentieth celebration of the kind. Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D., and the President of the Pharmaceutical Society (Mr. W. Hills) supported the chair, and among the other guests were the Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society (Mr. Newsholme), Dr. Symes (President of the B.P.C.), Mr. Carteighe, Mr. Allen, Professor Green, and others.

The toast of "The Medical Profession" was proposed by Mr. J. W. Gamble, who remarked that the "art of pharmacy took its origin from the profession of medicine, and had come to fill an important function under the parental roof. It was therefore to be regretted that 'pharmacy should be in course of relegation' to the background of the medical curriculum, since through the consequent decadence of prescribing, pharmacy would be injuriously affected no less than medicine."

Sir Dyce Duckworth, in replying to the toast, said the relations between medical men and pharmacists were growing closer year by year, due in a great measure to advance in pharmaceutical education; still, it should not be forgotten that the old time druggists were truly honourable men, and he held them in esteem and veneration. It was for the assistants of to-day to maintain the dignity of pharmacy, and in doing this by education they had the advantage of being trained by men in the very front ranks. Chemists, he thought, were a most moral set of men—(hear, hear)—he never recollects a case of infamous conduct among them, and it was surprising what confidence the public had in them as a body. The tendency of medical men nowadays seemed to be to reduce their prescribing to "tabloid form," which might be due to the deficient training in pharmacy medical men received. He (the speaker) thought the time occupied in a course of pharmacy was time well spent. In connection with this, he would like to say that the new B.P., on which he had been engaged, in conjunction with others for the last seven or eight years, would be out in a few weeks



T. MORLEY TAYLOR, Ph.Ch.
President of the Chemists' Assistants' Association.

and would be found, he ventured to remark, the best Pharmacopoeia that had ever appeared, and a mine of interest to all who used it.

Mr. C. E. Robinson proposed the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," and the President (Mr. Hills), in replying, took his cue from the L.C.C. elections that had taken place that day. He claimed that the Pharmaceutical Society was both Progressive and Moderate. Their Progressive ideas had been shown by the new by-laws which they got sanctioned last year, and which placed a six-barred gate of education at the entrance to their profession in place of the old three-barred one, and their moderation was manifested by the Bill which was now before Parliament, and in which he claimed they had avoided extremes. He alluded to the "interesting condition" of the Bill, which he hoped that evening would be read a second time, and urged everyone to use his best influence on its behalf.

Dr. Symes proposed the toast of "The Chemists' Assistants' Association," and said that great credit was due to chemists' assistants who met together, after their long hours of business, to discuss scientific and practical subjects, and he hoped the Association would go on prospering.

Mr. Morley Taylor, in replying, said the Association was never so popular as it was at present. They had enrolled fifty new members during the past year, and he reminded assistants that, in considering the merits of any measure, they ought to look ahead to the time when they would be in business for themselves.

Mr. G. E. Pearson proposed "The Visitors," which was replied to by Mr. J. H. Matthews and Mr. Newsholme (Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society).

The evening was interspersed with songs and musical sketches, the company leaving at about 11.30 to face an inhospitable snowstorm which was falling without.

Midlanders Merry.

The Midland chemists and their friends to the number of six score met on the evening of March 3, at the Colonnade Hotel, Birmingham, to enjoy a smoking-concert promoted by the Midland Pharmaceutical Association. Mr. F. J. Gibson, the President, came over from Wolverhampton to take the chair. Mr. H. S. Shorthouse, the Hon. Secretary, had, by careful forethought, ensured a complete success. The programme afforded plenty of enjoyment. Messrs. F. Hopkins, F. A. Thomas, A. Hutton, a local humourist, H. Maneus, P. Armstrong, H. Mowles, Frank Taylor, W. Heritage, F. Parker, and T. Colley, each in his own way, gave admirable contributions.

The Chemist's Cough-mixture.

The inquest on Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, aged 76, who died somewhat suddenly on February 13, opened a few days after her death. It transpired that Mrs. Stevens had been taking some cough-mixture supplied by Mr. C. W. Booth, chemist, of 270 Osmaston Road, Derby. When seen by doctors just prior to her demise she was suffering from the effects of a narcotic, and it was suggested that the morphia contained in the mixture might have accelerated her end. The Coroner adjourned the inquiry to enable a *post-mortem* examination to be made. The mixture, Mr. Booth said, was made from his own prescription, and he had sold it for sixteen years without receiving a single complaint. Mrs. Stevens, the daughter-in-law of the deceased, was now recalled, and stated that when she sent her daughter for the cough-mixture she did not give her any specific instructions, but merely said, "Take this bottle and go for sixpennyworth of Mr. Booth's cough-mixture." Witness had sent for this mixture several times, and it had always done the deceased good. She had never been told that the mixture contained morphia or poison of any kind. In reply to Mr. Booth, witness said the deceased seemed decidedly better on the Saturday following the Friday on which the mixture was purchased. Replying to the Coroner, witness alleged that when the doctor came he said the deceased was suffering from slight bronchitis, and when told her age he expressed surprise that a woman of 76 should live to such an age with such a terribly diseased heart. The doctor asked what had been given to her, and when showed the mixture in the bottle he said it contained morphia, and told witness she had no right to give it to a person like the deceased. Witness had not noticed that her mother appeared dazed after taking the mixture, and it was her heavy breathing on Sunday that made witness think she was worse. A doctor was not sent for until the Sunday, and then one did not come for some hours after. The Coroner: Are you not one of those persons who do not believe in doctors at all? Witness: Well, sir, I am not fond of them. The Coroner: You told me the other day you would not send for one, did not you? Witness: I know we are obliged to have them, but my mother would not. Still, if I had thought the old lady was going to die, I should have sent for a doctor on the Friday. In reply to the jury, witness admitted that at a previous hearing she said she did not believe in doctors nor yet in their bills, but she explained that she was very indignant when she said this. Mr. C. W. Booth was examined at some length as to entries in his register of sale of poisons, and he admitted that the initials "C. W. B." under the column for the signature of the person introducing the purchaser were his. That meant that each person enumerated in that column was known to him either personally or by sight. He admitted that at the last inquiry he said this mixture did not come within the schedule, and he was still of that opinion. The Coroner: Then the sooner you disabuse your mind of that opinion the better. Is this mixture a preparation of morphia? Witness: No. The Coroner: What do you call it? Witness: A mixture. The Coroner: If a mixture contains morphia, is it not a preparation of morphia? Witness: I should not say so. The Coroner: You admit it contains 48 minims of solution of morphia, therefore would not that be a preparation of morphia? Witness: Yes, sir. The Coroner: Then why did not you admit it at once? I am bound to get it if I stop here a week. Now you have admitted that it is a preparation of morphia, will you admit that it comes within the Act of Parliament? Witness: Yes. The Coroner: You admit that this mixture comes under the definition "Poison"? Witness: Yes. The Coroner: Then was it not your duty to label this

mixture "Poison"? Witness: I do not think so. The Coroner: As a fully qualified chemist you ought to know. Now answer me. Are you not bound to register it as a poison? Witness: Well, legally, yes. The Coroner: You ought to know that I mean legally and nothing else. Having admitted it is a poison, would it not be your duty to register it in your poison-book? Witness: No, there is no necessity for it. The Coroner read the Act dealing with the matter, and eventually Mr. Booth admitted it was his duty to enter it as a poison and also to label it as such. A Juror: In case the whole contents of that 2-oz. bottle had been taken, would there be sufficient morphia in it to kill anyone? Witness: No. The Coroner: But knowing this woman was suffering from pneumonia, Bright's disease, and other complications, do you think it was safe for her to take this mixture? Witness: Well, it was not safe in such a case as hers. Dr Henry Daniell, who saw the deceased shortly before death and made the *post-mortem* examination, said there was sufficient evidence to show that pneumonia was the cause of death, but he thought the end was accelerated by a most imprudent medicine—a medicine that no medical man would give. The Coroner: When you say imprudent medicine, do you mean this mixture? Witness: Ycs. The Coroner: Would you call it imprudent to give this preparation to a person in normal health? Witness: I think it would always be imprudent to give it without medical advice. Personally, I should not dream of administering that drug unless I had tested the organs, especially in the case of a person 76 years old. In reply to further questions, Dr. Daniell said it was probable that death would have taken place before long even if this mixture had not been taken. Dr. Gibbons, who assisted in the *post mortem*, corroborated, and said there was no doubt death would have taken place from pneumonia apart from the mixture. Mr. W. Harold Hoare, chemist, was called on behalf of Mr. Booth to speak of the custom of the trade in regard to cough-mixtures, and said this mixture did not come under that part of the schedule which necessitated the sale being registered, though he admitted Mr. Booth ought to have labelled it. The Coroner, in summing up, said Mr. Booth had not done certain things he ought to have done, and it was perfectly clear that he had contravened the Act of Parliament. The public must be protected, and he should do what he could to protect their interests. Without the slightest hesitation, he stated that Mr. Booth had been guilty of a dereliction of duty in not conforming with the Act of Parliament, which, he took it, required that this preparation should be labelled a poison and also registered as a poison, and that being so he had no doubt Mr. Booth would hear more about this case before long from another quarter. It was very wrong that a chemist should make up and sell a mixture containing 48 minims of solution of morphia to the 2 oz. without having it labelled "Poison," and his opinion was that Mr. Booth had been reckless and careless in the sale of this mixture and guilty of gross negligence, though probably not sufficiently so to bring him within the meshes of the criminal law. After some deliberation the jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from pneumonia, accelerated by a narcotic mixture, sold to Annie Snell Stevens by Mr. C. W. Booth, chemist, of Osmaston Road, Derby, and administered by Mrs. Stevens by misadventure. They also added a rider strongly blaming Mr. Booth for selling a mixture of that description without first ascertaining the age and condition of the person it was intended for, and they also thought he was to blame for not complying with the law relating to the sale of poisons. The Coroner disallowed Mr. Booth's expenses, and intimated that he should take care that the jury's views should be laid before the proper authorities.

An Alleged Chemist Burned to Death.

At the Leicester Coroner's Court, on March 3, an inquiry was held into the death of Thomas Fry (described as a chemist and druggist, but whose name does not appear on the register), who lived with his sister at 102 Pool Road. The evidence showed that both the brother and sister had been of intemperate habits, and on the night of deceased's death both were together in the sitting-room when deceased fell into the fire. The sister, for some reason which she is unable to explain, was not able to help him, and he was burned to death. After a considerable amount of evidence had been given the Coroner, in summing-up, remarked that

it was quite clear both deceased and his sister were hopelessly drunk at the time of the sad occurrence, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Explosion of a Paint-keg.

Mr. Molesworth, Coroner, opened an inquest at Middleton, on March 4, concerning the death of William John Brazier, which occurred through an explosion at Messrs. W. G. Thompson & Co.'s aniline-dye and chemical works. On the previous Tuesday Brazier was emptying a keg of paint at Thompson's works, and, in order to see how much paint was left in the keg, he struck a match, which he held in the keg, with the result that there was an immediate explosion of great violence, and Brazier was enveloped in flames. In his agony deceased threw himself into tank of water close by, but was speedily removed from the tank to his home, where he succumbed the following evening. At the inquest a letter was read from Dr. Dean, of Middleton, who stated that Bardsley, a youth who was helping the deceased at the time of the accident, and the only one who knew anything about the explosion, had been very seriously injured, and the inquiry was adjourned indefinitely.

A Chemist's Suicide.

An inquest was held on March 4 on the body of William Henry Davis, described as a chemist, but whose name does not appear on the register, of 58 Somerset Road, Walthamstow. Deceased had gone out for a walk, fallen down, and broken three ribs. He was confined to his bed, but in his wife's absence he committed suicide by taking prussic acid. The widow said he had no cause for trouble, but had lately seemed depressed. A verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind was returned.

Cigarette Sweets.

An inquiry was held at Wimbledon on February 28 concerning the death of a boy 4 years of age, which had occurred the previous week. The mother of the child said she was awakened early in the morning by the child, who seemed to be suffering from a bilious attack, and she got some castor oil from a chemist, which seemed to relieve it. A doctor was sent for and medicine was prescribed, but the child did not improve, and died the next morning. Another girl, 9 years of age, and the baby (18 months) developed similar symptoms of sickness and diarrhoea when the boy was dying, but they were both well again. All the children had been eating "cigarette sweets."

The Coroner said he thought these samples of the sweets of which the children had eaten ought to be analysed, especially as indications of some colouring-matter were found in deceased's stomach similar to the colouring of these sweets. The inquiry was adjourned until March 28, in order that an analysis of the sweets may be made.

The Arsenical Vinegar.

At the Military Court of Inquiry it was found that the recent mysterious illness of artillerymen at Hilsea barracks was caused through vinegar being placed by mistake in the wrong barrel.

Chloral in a Criminal Case.

A sensational case was investigated on March 4 at Eastbourne Police Court, when a lady who recently resided at Beach Home, Tower Road, Eastbourne, was charged with administering chloral with intent to murder her three children. The accused was in financial straits, and it is alleged that she bought chloral to poison her children, but the doses proved too strong for the children and made them sick. She afterwards tried to suffocate them with gas, but was again unsuccessful; and Dr. F. B. Rockstro, who was called in, said that on February 18 prisoner produced a bottle of laudanum, and said she would have swallowed it after she had seen the children dead from taking the laudanum. The Bench committed prisoner for trial at the Sussex Assizes.

The Sheffield Mineral-water Trade.

At the annual dinner of the Sheffield Mineral-water Manufacturers' Association references were made to the combination which had been entered into by some twenty firms under the title of the Sheffield Amalgamated Aerated-water Company, with a capital of 95,000L. Mr. B. Chapman,

President of the Association, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. Mr. Ryder Bradford, in giving the toast of the Association, expressed regret that the members had not combined to charge for their bottles. The chairman, in responding, said theirs was the first, and he believed it was the strongest, local association in the country. Charging for bottles was only to be arrived at by combination, and in a few weeks they would be banded together in such a commercial union as would enable them to do it. During the past year 1,200,000 bottles had gone through the Bottle Exchange and been returned to their owners. Under the new combination that work would be obviated, as the great bulk of the bottles would belong to one company. Mr. J. D. Foxon gave "The Yorkshire Mineral-water Manufacturers' Association," saying it had nearly 450 members, representing a capital of 4,000,000/., and finding employment for 7,000 people. Mr. J. Hindle (President of the Hull Association), in reply, urged mineral-water manufacturers to take care that their manufactures did not contain more than 3 per cent. of spirit, as prosecutions were frequent where that quantity was exceeded. He did not agree that soda-water must contain the quantity of soda prescribed by the Pharmacopœia—15 gr. per bottle. Such a quantity made the drink taste something like soap-suds. It was all right when soda-water was used only as a medicine, but when made with from 3 to 5 gr. to the bottle it became a beverage. If they were to use the full quantity they must find some other name for the soda-water as at present made.

Hospital Drug-bills.

The Surrey County Hospital spent during last year 682*l.* 19*s.* 7*½d.* on drugs and surgical instruments, against 578*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* in the year before. At Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital 93*l.* 9*s.* 7*½d.* was spent in drugs and surgical instruments; at Bedford General Hospital the drug-bill amounted to 75*l.*

Chemist's Successful Protest.

The protest publicly made by Mr. Jas. Robinson, pharmaceutical chemist, Northgate, Darlington, respecting the system of purchasing chemicals and appliances for use at the Technical Institute (which was referred to in the *C. & D.*, February 19, page 298), has had the desired effect. At the meeting of the Darlington Town Council on Thursday in last week, Mr. Stewart asked if there was any truth in the statement that chemicals to the value of 2,001*l.* had been purchased for the college, and that not a single Darlington tradesman had been asked to tender for the goods. Mr. Swinburne (Chairman) said Darlington tradesmen were not invited to tender for the chemical apparatus in question, but that matter was in the hands of certain members of the committee who were competent to deal with the subject, and the committee had left themselves entirely in their hands. In future, however, town tradesmen would be given an opportunity of tendering.

Fire at a Soda-water Factory.

A fire broke out on the premises of the Weymouth Soda-water Company, in Clifton Place, Weymouth, on March 2, the flames spreading with so great rapidity that the machinery-floor collapsed in a very short time. Large quantities of sugar and syrup added fierceness to the conflagration, the second storey gave way, and the building was completely gutted. The damage, which is extensive, is covered by insurance.

Chemists at Football.

The Pharmaceutical Football Club played St. Michael's United on Saturday last, and won the match by 3 to nil. Pharmaceutical team:—Prescott (goal), Jones and Lescher (backs), Evans, Nelson, and Payne (half-backs), Happold, Day, Owen (centres), Durbin and Warren (forwards).

On Saturday, March 12, Pharmaceutical Football Club practice match at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush, at 3.

Barnum's Youngest Camel.

The baby camel, which, as mentioned last week, was born at Barnum's and Bailey's during the visit of Lord Mayor Gibson of Manchester, was christened "Lady Mary of Manchester" by the Lady Mayoress.

Handsome Donation.

Messrs. Elliman & Co. (Limited), of Slough, have just given a donation of 252*l.* to the benevolent fund of the Saddlers and Harness Makers' Employers Association.

Probable Dentistry Legislation in Jersey.

We understand that Deputy Duret Aubin intends to introduce into the Jersey States at an early date a Bill restricting the practice of dentistry in the island, which is at present innocent of such legislation.

A Dishonest Idris Carman.

At Watford Petty Sessions, on March 2, a recent employé of Messrs. Idris & Co. (Limited), mineral-water manufacturers, Camden Town, was charged with embezzling sums of 11*s.* 3*d.* and 5*s.* from that firm. Prisoner had been employed at the Watford dépôt as a carman, and rendered a weekly statement of his transactions to a representative of the company, who visited Watford once a month. In November the books were all right; in December the monthly visit was omitted through pressure of business; but in January 240 dozen of mineral waters were found missing from stock. Prisoner's delivery-book was produced, and it was found that several sheets were torn out. The two amounts of 5*s.* and 11*s.* 3*d.* had never been accounted for. Evidence was given proving the payment of these sums to the prisoner, and finding 240 dozen short on January 19. A further twelve dozen were found short on January 31. The value of the 252 dozen was from 11*l.* to 12*l.*, and it was found that eight accounts, amounting in all to 2*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, had been received by the prisoner, but were unaccounted for. Defendant said that all the money had been spent in canvassing-expenses, but the prosecuting counsel said the firm had a traveller who canvassed specially for orders. The Chairman of the Bench said a systematic scheme of robbery had been carried on, and prisoner was sentenced to three weeks' hard labour.

Too Much Laudanum.

On March 4 an inquest was held at Doncaster on Albert Edward Chamberlain, son of Mr. Chamberlain, cattle spice and medicine manufacturer, Highfield Road, Wheatley. After evidence had been given, the jury returned a verdict that deceased had died from an overdose of laudanum, but there was no evidence to show the circumstances under which it had been taken.

Snowballing.

This seasonable, but somewhat dangerous, form of recreation, freely indulged in by the lads of Bedminster, has resulted in the windows and contents at the establishment of Mr. R. Hine, chemist, being broken and much damaged.

Mallein for Glanders.

In the last edition of "Veterinary Counter-practice" (page 101) it is stated that mallein, an extract of the products of the bacillus of glanders (*B. Mallei*), is being largely used for diagnosing the disease. It may be obtained, with full instructions as to its use, from Messrs. Willows, Francis, Butler & Ayscough Thompson, 40 Aldersgate Street, E.C. Its merits are evidently becoming more widely appreciated. At a meeting of the Central Veterinary Medical Society held on March 3, Mr. W. E. Taylor, M.R.C.V.S., veterinary surgeon to the London Road-car Company, read a paper on "Mallein and its Uses," in which he insisted that mallein was an infallible test for glanders when no clinical symptoms were present, and the horse appeared to be in perfect condition. He had tried it on 4,000 horses within the last few years; all the horses that reacted to an injection of mallein were slaughtered, and in every instance *post-mortem* examination discovered the presence of disease. Professors M'Fadyean, Macqueer, Penberthy, William Hunting, F.R.C.S., and Veterinary-Major Nunn all agreed with Mr. Taylor as to the value of mallein for diagnostic purposes in detecting the early stages of glanders, and a resolution was unanimously carried: "That this meeting is convinced that the experience possessed by British veterinarians has thoroughly established the reliability of mallein for diagnostic purposes in horses suspected of glanders."



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Business Changes.

Mr. Joseph Montgomery, registered druggist, has opened a shop at 64 Albert Bridge Road, Belfast.

Mr. Hugh Crail, L.S.P.I., for many years with Messrs. Grattan, will in a day or two be installed in a newly-fitted pharmacy at 41 Albert Bridge Road, Belfast.

Mr. Joseph Williamson, for ten years with Messrs. John Beattie & Co., Great Edward Street, Belfast, has started as a druggist at 167 Cromac Street.

Mr. W. A. Lynass, L.S.P.I., 5 Ann Street, has leased some additional space, which is to be utilised as new warehouse-room.

Drug and Medicine-contracts

are invited by the following Poor-law Unions on or before the dates given:—Athlone (March 12), Athy (March 16), Bawnboy (March 14), Bailieborough (March 14), Ballinasloe (March 23), Borrisokane (March 14), Croom (March 17), Cotehill (March 18), Clones (March 17), Coleraine (March 19), Castlerea (March 19), Kilkenny (March 17), Lisnaskea (March 12), Monaghan (March 16), Naas (March 16), Roscrea (March 17), Sligo (March 15), Tulla (March 15), Tullamore (March 15). Most of these Unions have outside dispensaries attached, averaging four each. The usual contract conditions are stipulated. The forms of tender are to be obtained on application to the Clerk of each Union.

More Company Privileges.

In connection with Messrs. Bible & Co.'s contract to the Cork Union and the sitting on the Board of Mr. Bible as a Guardian, to which reference was made in a recent issue, Messrs. J. & A. Blake, solicitors, whose opinion was asked in the matter, have replied that the contract in question is valid. Any shareholder of a limited-liability company having contracts with the Union is qualified to sit as a Guardian, and is not in their opinion liable to the penalties imposed by the 1st and 2nd Vic., cap. 56. This letter rather surprised several of the Guardians.

The Bitter Sweet.

It has been declared at a meeting of the Midleton Board of Guardians that peppermint lozenges, scented and carbolic soap are not medicines, these articles having been included in a requisition for drugs submitted by the Medical Officer and refused bluntly by the L.G.B. One of the Guardians suggested that the lozenges required were of the amatory "conversation" kind; and another facetiously hinted that the odorous medicinal tablets were useful during the long evenings. For the present the supply of "sweeties" will remain in the hands of the local confectioner.

Practee and Principle.

A curious action has just been decided in the Court of Queen's Bench. Mr. Samuel Hanna, Belfast, brought an action against Dr. Frederick Cosgrove to recover damages for alleged breach of contract, and also for slander in making untrue statements with respect to the medical practice belonging to the plaintiff's brother, the late Dr. James Hanna, of Romford. It was stated that the defendant, who had acted as assistant to the deceased, agreed to carry on the practice at 4l. a week until a purchaser could be found for it; he was then to receive a certain commission on the sale. A Dr. Lamb offered 1,700/- for the goodwill, stock, &c., and of this amount defendant was to get 300/. A second purchaser came on the scene, and the allegation was that the defendant, disappointed with the terms offered by Dr. Lamb, induced him by misrepresentation and otherwise, to break

off the negotiations, with the result that the practice had to be sold for 1,400/. Defendant denied the plaintiff's allegations, but the jury returned a verdict against him for 361/-.



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Football.

A match was played at Pollockshields, on March 5, between the Glasgow and West of Scotland School of Pharmacy F.C. and Nobel's Explosive Company's F.C., which resulted in a win for the pharmacists by 2 goals to 1. The pharmacy team comprised Messrs. Dawson (goal); Macarthur and Banks (backs); D. Banks, Scott, and Drynam (half-backs); Russell, Paton, and Lochhead (centres); Buchanan and Wilson (forwards).

"Gowff" for Chemists.

Mr. Jas. Stott, 10 Royal Crescent, Edinburgh, Secretary of the Edinburgh District Chemists' Golf Club, has sent us the card of the fixtures for the coming season. In the hole-and-hole competitions, which proved so successful last year, the first round of ties must be finished by the end of March, second by end of April, third by end of May, fourth by June 15, and fifth by June 30. The winner will receive a gold pendant and the runner-up a dozen balls. On the spring holiday the Club play over the famous Leven Links at Largo, and in May, June, and September there will be matches on the Braides course. The fixture for the autumn holiday has not yet been settled.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

The annual supper was held in the Imperial Hotel, Edinburgh, on March 4. About fifty members and friends were present. Mr. George Sinclair (President) occupied the chair, and Mr. W. L. Currie and Mr. J. Lothian (Glasgow), and Mr. J. Bowman, Mr. G. Lunan, Mr. J. A. Forret, Mr. R. L. Hendry, Mr. J. M. Cameron, Mr. W. B. Cowie, and Mr. J. R. Hill (Edinburgh) were among the company. The toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society" was proposed by Mr. J. D. Sinclair (Vice-President), and replied to by Mr. Currie. Both speakers dealt principally with the Pharmacy Bill. Mr. J. R. Hill proposed "The Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association," which was acknowledged by Mr. R. I. McDougall. Mr. W. L. Currie, in proposing "The Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association," congratulated them on being still in full vigour in their twentieth session, and hoped he might be present when, next year, with a record attendance, they celebrated their majority. The Chairman acknowledged the toast. Other toasts were "The Pharmacy Athletic Club" and "The Chemists' Golf Club," proposed by Mr. J. M. Cameron, and acknowledged by Messrs. G. Somerville (President) and W. B. Cowie (Treasurer); "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. Rowland and acknowledged by Mr. J. A. Forret; and "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. J. Lothian. During the evening the Chairman, in the name of the Association, presented three volumes of music—"Nineteenth Century," "Chopin's Nocturnes," and "Songs of Four Nations"—to the accompanist, Mr. James A. Crichton, as an acknowledgment of his efficient services during several years. An excellent musical programme made the evening pass pleasantly. An interesting item was a clever ventriloquial entertainment by Mr. H. G. Dutton, in which two good jokes were introduced. Mr. Dutton had a ventriloquist's speaking-model, who said he was a chemist. He had a very red nose, and explained that this was due to rock oil in his methylated spirit. The following dialogue then took place between the model and Mr. Dutton:—

"A man came into my shop the other day for a pound of sulphur. I charged him a shilling for it."

"You did."

"I should think I did. Do you know what he said?"

"What did he say?"

"He said he could get it from Inman's for twopence a ton. Do you know what I said?"

"What did you say?"

"I told him to go to the place where *sulphur could be got for nothing.*"

Fire at a Chemist's.

A fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Baxter, chemist and druggist, Grange Street, Grangemouth, on March 2, and considerable alarm prevailed for a short time on account of the explosive nature of the stock. The fire was got under in a very short time, but the contents of the shop were nearly all destroyed. Damage done is covered by insurance.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

A PHARMACIEN SENATOR.—M. Joseph C. Duval, a retired pharmacien, who since 1883 has represented the district of St. Julien in the Chamber of Deputies, has recently been elected a member of the French Senate. M. Duval is a prophet in his own country, having been born at St. Julien fifty-seven years ago, of which town he is also Mayor. During the war of 1870-71 he did useful service, and is now a member of the National Conseil d'Hygiène. He makes the historical literature of his native place a hobby, and is a Republican in politics. His election as a Senator appears to be gratifying to French pharmacists, and he is looked upon as one of the most useful champions of the interests of pharmacy in the Upper Chamber.

DISCIPLINARY CHAMBERS.—There exists at present in Paris a Disciplinary Chamber for pharmacists, and the Corporation of Lawyers possess a similar organisation. The object of these institutions is, if not exactly to keep members of each profession in the paths of virtue, at least to endeavour to prevent them being a disgrace to their respective callings. The Paris physicians have had under consideration the advisability of having a Disciplinary Chamber for themselves; but they have decided that such a course is not necessary, one of the principal reasons being that it would be very difficult to obtain evidence against a doctor, who, while sinning against the ethics of his profession, had not come within the more tolerant arm of the law.

THE MICROBES OF PARIS.—According to M. Miquel, of the Paris Municipal Observatory at Montsouris, the air of Paris contains an average of 7,620 bacteria per cubic metre. In summer it increases to 9,685, and in winter is only 4,020. The air of the sewers appears to be privileged, and contains only 2,500 per cubic metre, while heat and cold do not affect it. He explains that his figures are much higher than those of other bacteriologists, as by his system he can only count his colonies fifteen days after taking his samples, while the general rule is to count them after three or four days. M. Miquel considers that his process is the right one. He finds that during the summer, when the water is low, 7,000,000 colonies per cubic centimetre may be found in the Seine at Epinay, where part of the Paris sewers are emptied. The average in that portion of the river is 2,000,000 for the year.

THE PELLETIER-CAVENTOU MONUMENT.—The subscriptions for this proposed monument are not coming in very rapidly, only 10,000f. (400*l.*) having so far been subscribed. Dr. Caventou, last year's President of the Paris Academy of Medicine, has given 3,000f. (120*l.*) towards perpetuating his father's memory. The Pharmacists' Syndicate of the Seine Department has given 1,000f. (40*l.*) Various professors at the Paris School of Pharmacy, leading Paris pharmacists, wholesale firms, provincial syndicates, &c., have subscribed sums varying from 250f. to 50f. The students of the Paris School of Pharmacy who follow Professor Grimbert's course of practical work have subscribed nearly 250f., and a number of amounts, varying from 5f. to 2f., have also been collected. There are several American subscribers; but I cannot learn that, so far, that the movement has found any support in England, and yet, if the introducers of quinine rendered

services to France, they certainly did so a hundred-fold for England.

TRADE-COMBINATIONS IN FRANCE.—I referred to this subject last week, in connection with the proposed anti-cutting scheme between pharmacists and manufacturers of patent medicines. The great stumbling-block to a plain-sailing arrangement in this country is the law passed in 1884, which stipulates precisely that no syndicate or association formed in France, for protecting the professional interest of its members, can undertake commercial operations, and that no such transactions entered into are valid. A case of the kind was tried recently before the St. Etienne Tribunal of Commerce. The plaintiffs were the Pharmacists' Syndicate of the Loire, and the defendant a druggist at St. Etienne. The latter is proprietor of a mineral-water well known as the "Parmentier Source," and he contracted with the plaintiffs to give them the monopoly of the Source for three years. The defendant did not carry out his contract to the satisfaction of the syndicate, and they brought an action to have it cancelled. The defendant brought a counter-action on the ground that the syndicate had arranged to give him their support without being able, legally, to do so. This, he claimed, had prejudiced his business, and he applied for 30,000f. damages. Both parties lost their cases, and had to pay their own costs. It should be understood that this syndicate was not formed for business-purposes, and hence the illegality of their contract. Of course, commercial companies, co-operative societies, &c., exist and prosper in France, but they cannot "corner" an article for the purpose of maintaining its price; the French Government reserves to itself that trifling privilege, and uses it for such monopolies as matches and tobacco. Thus it will be seen that the General Association of French Pharmacists have to overcome two difficulties in their anti-cutting scheme. The first is that they cannot enter into commercial transactions themselves; and the second that any attempt to create a monopoly within the meaning of the law has to be avoided.

South African News.

(From our Correspondents.)

BULAWAYO.—General business is bad, but the leading chemists have had no reason to complain since the railway reached Bulawayo. The drug-trade and the whisky-bottle keep each other company in Rhodesia. The further one goes north the more of the latter one finds.

AT KIMBERLEY the usual business has been passing. Good profits are being made by chemists. The opening of the railway northward will further trade, as chemists in Rhodesia are bound to send to Kimberley for anything they may want quickly. Trade for the past twelve months has been very satisfactory.

1897 WAS A PROSPEROUS YEAR.—In Cape Town chemists, wholesale and retail, are complaining of business for the first six weeks of this year. The effects of rinderpest are now making itself felt, money circulates slowly, and country stores are buying in small quantities with extended credit. The first few months of 1897 were anything but encouraging, and trade only showed improvement when the new tariff was put before the House of Parliament. As soon as it was known that a further 8 per cent. was to be collected on proprietary medicines, and the duty on preparations containing spirit doubled, a general rush was made to purchase heavy stocks before the extra duty came finally into force. June and July were record months; orders flowed in freely, and money was plentiful.

COLONIAL VACCINE-LYMPH.—A strong article has appeared in a Cape weekly journal against the vaccine-lymph produced at the Government bacteriological laboratory at Grahamstown, under the direction of Dr. Alexander Edington—"the presiding genius of the Government Bad-lymph Institute" is the way the journal refers to him. The charge is that the lymph rarely catches on, and is no preventive to small-pox, which is spreading rather rapidly at the Cape. There is a tendency to "slate" Dr. Edington whenever occasion arises; so our Cape correspondent took the precaution to ask his opinion about the matter, when he made the

reply:—"Out of a long series of vaccinations made at Kimberley by a special officer, 95 per cent. were successful. The colour is slightly darker than that of English lymph, owing to our having to use older calves than in England, but as against this the results are splendid. Moreover, tuberculosis is unknown in Cape cattle."

MR. F. W. C. THOMAS, one of the new members of the Colonial Pharmacy Board (Cape Colony), is a decided acquisition to the Board. He is a German apotheker, who had considerable experience in England before going out to the Cape. Mr Thomas served his apprenticeship at Ebeleben, a small country town in Germany, and, after passing his Assistants' examination, he went successively to Bonn, Basel, and Geneva as an assistant. Then he went to the Strassburg University to proceed with his curriculum, studied a year under Professor Flückiger, then a year and a half under



MR. F. W. C. THOMAS.

Kékulé and Wallich in Bonn, and became an apotheker. His next situation was in the Hof-Apotheke, in Wiesbaden, where he got into touch with international pharmacy, and became so enamoured of English that he went to London to perfect his facility in the tongue and the pharmacy. There he was in several establishments, until Messrs. Burgoynes, Burbidges & Co. made him a tempting offer to go out to the Cape, nearly twenty years ago. Mr. Thomas has been in business for himself in Claremont, a suburb of Cape Town, since 1886.

CONDITION OF TRADE.—The drug-trade is very quiet just now throughout South Africa. The Transvaal chemists particularly are emulating Micawber, the something that they want to turn up being a Government which would give a free hand to trade. But there is not the slightest hope of that at present. Oom Paul sits harder than ever in his chair. Changes have been the order of the day during the past few months. In 1897 no fewer than sixteen new businesses or branches were established, and this with hard times and a decreasing population. More than half of these (including one on which more than a thousand pounds had been spent on fittings alone) have been compelled to close after a few months' struggle. During the first six weeks of this year the array of pill-building establishments has been still further augmented by the addition of A. S. Smith & Co.'s, Doornfontein, Taylor & Co.'s, Von Brandis Square, and Mr. Lewis's pharmacy, Eloff Street, Johannesburg. Several businesses have recently changed hands, but unfortunately it has not in every case been owing to the proprietors having made fortunes. Since January, 1898, the Transvaal Government have revised the Customs duties, for which they are now reviled, as increases rather than decreases have been the rule. Thus, eau de Cologne bears an extra special duty of 20s. per gal., all empty bottles over 6 oz. are taxed 1s. per

dozen, patents an extra $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and soaps, toilet-powders, cosmetics, tooth-pastes, &c., an extra 10 per cent.; so, what with increased competition, higher Customs duties, declining trade, and low prices, the chemists' lot in the Transvaal is not a happy one.

Colonial and Foreign News.

A SPIRIT TRUST, comprising the more important distilleries in Germany, has just been formed in Berlin. It is not proposed to alter the prices of spirit in any way at present.

FIRE AND EXPLOSION are sequences to Messrs. E. H. Sargent & Co., wholesale and retail pharmacists, Chicago. Two months ago they had the fire, and on February 9 the explosion came, doing \$1,000 of damage.

BIG EVAPORATING-PANS.—A Hamburg steamer which sailed from Hamburg the other day had amongst its cargo three copper evaporating-pans 17 feet long and 7 feet wide. These are intended for a new logwood-extract factory in Antwerp.

RUSSIA AND THE METRIC SYSTEM.—A report from St. Petersburg states that the Finance Minister has obtained Imperial authority to make preliminary arrangements for the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures into Russia.

TABLOIDS IN GERMANY.—We reported a few weeks ago that the importation of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s tabloids into Brunswick had been stopped. The *Phar. Zeit.* mentions that the Apotheker Verein of Danzig has taken steps to have the same done for that town.

EUCALYPTUS IN EAST AFRICA.—The German Colonial Office reports that following upon the successful plantation of *Eucalyptus globulus* in German East Africa a small plantation of *Eucalyptus rostrata* (the red-gum tree) has been laid down at the Kovai Station, and it is doing well.

DOCTORS IN GERMANY.—There were 24,873 physicians practising in Germany at the end of 1897, equal to 9 doctors for every 20,000 inhabitants; in 1883 there were 66 to the same number; and in 1890, 8. Berlin, with a population of 1,727,757, has 2,196 physicians, or 1 for every 800 inhabitants.

ARTIFICIAL HOMATROPIN is proposed, by E. Täuber, of Berlin, to be made by heating a mixture of tropine and amygdalic acid together at $110\text{--}120^\circ\text{C}$. and passing through the fused mixture a stream of hydrochloric-acid gas, subsequently isolating the synthesised homatropin by known methods. The process is the subject of a German patent.

A JUBILEE IN SARSA.—The fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of Ayer's sarsaparilla was celebrated at Lowell, Mass., on February 16, by a banquet to 400 employés and friends of the manufacturers, which, says an American paper, "showed the artistic hand of that very clever advertiser Mr. A. E. Rose, the present manager of the company, who presided."

RUBBER-CULTIVATION IN CEYLON.—The director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Ceylon, has issued to colonial planters a pamphlet dealing with the climate, soil, cultivation, rate of growth, and cost of opening plantations of rubber-trees. The world's annual consumption of rubber is estimated at more than 10,000,000. Of this from one-third to one-half comes from Pará, which exported in 1895 45,788,613 lbs.

PHARMACISTS IN ROME.—Some pharmacists in Rome have been fined 4*l.* each for absenting themselves from their pharmacies without leaving qualified representatives in charge. The unqualified assistants were mulcted in a fine of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each. A contemporary says the practice of leaving unqualified assistants in charge is a reprehensible one, and, if so common in the capital, must assume positively dangerous proportions in the country.

DISTILLED WATER ONLY FOR AÉRATED WATERS.—On and after April 1 it is decreed that all artificial aërated and mineral waters made for sale in Danzig must be made only from distilled water, and the carbonic acid used must be chemically pure. In the new regulations provision is also made

for ensuring that the waters will not become contaminated with lead, that the machinery is properly constructed, and that the factories are hygienically sound.

ANNOYING THE CHEMIST.—Mr. C. B. Rolands, chemist, Trincomalee Street, Kandy, had eight Ceylonese youths before the Magistrate on February 9 on a charge of insulting him and causing mischief by breaking his coloured lamp. The insult complained of was in the complainant being called "Country Bottle," referring to his initials. Mr. Rolands complained bitterly to the Magistrate of the annoyance given him, and identified the accused as having on January 26 broken his lamp. Two of the accused were fined 5s. each.

GERMAN DENATURED SPIRIT.—The spirit used for burning and illumination in Germany is denatured with pyridin, and it is objected that this substance, even although used in small proportions for denaturisation, is so limited in production that it is likely to become scarce if the demand for illuminating-spirit becomes greater, as it is expected to. In consequence it has been suggested to the Board of Public Health that benzol should be used, as it is perfectly soluble, of the same boiling-point as alcohol, and sufficiently nasty to prevent people drinking the denatured spirit. The Board are experimenting with the benzol, with a view to its adoption as suggested.

WHERE RUBBER AND VANILLA GROW.—Major J. Orton Kersey has recently returned from an exploring-trip to Lake Titicaca, *via* the Inca trail, to Cuzco, the ancient city of the Sun Temple, to Iquitos, on the Upper Amazon, in the department of Loreto, Peru. The object of the expedition was to explore the indiarubber forests. In this Major Kersey has been completely successful, having discovered, not only numerous forests of rubber-trees, but also guttapercha, vanilla, Tonka bean, and many other valuable products. He has also discovered a region where it would be profitable to cultivate rubber, and several localities adapted for colonisation by white men.

Marriages.

METAXOPOULOS—VACALOPOULO.—At Kadikeui, Turkey on February 24, by Mgr. Gennadius, ex-Metropolitan of Messimvria, assisted by Rev. Joackim Georgiades and many priests, was solemnised the marriage of Major Constantine Metaxopoulos Effendi, chemist, of the Sultan's Imperial Guard, to Mlle. Kalliroë Vacalopulo.

PARRY—LAURENCE.—On Tuesday, March 9, at St. Mark's, South Norwood, Leonard Arthur Parry, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S., eldest surviving son of Mr. W. P. Parry, of Croydon (and of Bartle t Hooper & Co., manufacturing pharmacists, Upper Thames Street), to Isabel Sythy, daughter of the late Mr. William Laurence, of Shirley, Surrey.

UTLEY—GORDON.—On February 24, at Sandford Church, Dublin, Edward Albert, youngest son of the late John Utley, Pembroke Grove, Leyland, to Elizabeth (Bessie), younger daughter of the late Alexander Stuart Gordon, L.P.S.I., Ranelagh, Dublin.

WHITE—EMERSON.—At St. Peter's Church, Baltimore, Md., on February 16, Mr. Walter Woodward White, of the Roessler & Hasslacher Chemical Company, to Lillie, daughter of Commander Isaac E. Emerson.

Deaths.

BELL.—On March 5, very suddenly F. R. Bell, chemist, Market Place, Swaffham, Norfolk. Mr. Bell originally commenced business in Middlesborough, and ten years after removed to Buckenham in Norfolk, when he had the misfortune to be burnt out. He then took a business at Swaffham. Zealous in every good work, he took a great interest in all educational or social matters intended to benefit the poor, and was universally and deservedly much respected.

CURTIS.—On March 4, at Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Annie Victoria, the dearly-loved wife of F. G. Curtis, pharmaceutical chemist. Aged 40.

DAVIES.—On March 9, Peter Hughes Davies, pharmaceutical chemist. Aged 83. Mr. Davies had been in business at March Carbs, over fifty years, and was a member of the Pharmaceutical Society from its formation.

DUFF.—On February 19, Mr. Wm. Duff, chemist and druggist, Leith. Aged 62. Mr. Duff was a partner in the firm of Messrs. Raimes, Clark & Co., Leith.

HURTER.—At Holly Lodge, Cressington Park, Liverpool, on March 5, Dr. Ferdinand Hurter, technical director of the United Alkali Company (Limited), in his 54th year. The death of Dr. Hurter makes a blank in the English alkali-industry, with which for more than thirty years he was known throughout the world, especially as a designer of processes both analytical and manufacturing. Dr. Hurter had long been chemist to Messrs. Gaskell, Deacon & Co., and when that firm was absorbed by the United Alkali Company (Limited), he, in 1889, became technical director. He returned only a few weeks ago from a visit to the United States, where he had been arranging the technical details of his company's new alkali-works near Detroit. Apart from many published papers on alkali-processes Dr. Hurter's name is associated with Dr. Lunge's in the production of the "Alkali-makers' Pocket-book." He was an active member of the Society of Chemical Industry, and served as Chairman of the Liverpool Section. Dr. Hurter was as well known in photographic circles as in the alkali-trade. He approached photography from the chemical side, and, along with Mr. Driffield, made a series of observations regarding exposure, which opened the eyes of photographers generally to the fact that their art is not the rule-of-thumb thing which they had thought it. Dr. Hurter was a younger-looking man than his years indicated, and his sudden death seems as untimely as it will be regretted by a large circle. He was born at Schaffhausen, in Switzerland, in 1844, but came to England in 1867.

MARTIN.—At "Pentref," College Avenue, Maidenhead, Mr. Richard Martin. Aged 52. Deceased had some years ago been a retail chemist at High Street, Maidenhead, but latterly had carried on a wholesale business at 24 Farringdon Road, E.C.

MASON.—On February 23, Mr. Richard Mason, 117 Derby Street, Bolton. Aged 74. Mr. Mason had been in business in Bolton for many years, retiring some four years ago in favour of his sons.

MITCHELL.—On March 7, at 24 St. Oswald's Street, Old Swan, Liverpool, Mr. Robert Harry Mitchell, chemist and druggist. Mr. Mitchell, who was formerly with Messrs. Symes & Co., established a business at Old Swan a few years since, and was well known as an intelligent pharmacist, especially among the younger generation. His death was entirely unexpected. He was one of the first members of the Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society, and since its beginning has been a devoted member, filling every office in turn to the satisfaction of his fellow students. His frequent notes on dispensing-matters were always of value, and his faculty of observation at the dispensing-counter was a marked characteristic. He had undertaken to read a paper to the Society on Thursday of this week entitled "As Others See Us." The meeting was of course cancelled. Mr. Mitchell took an active interest in local and Church affairs. He acted as secretary to the Stoneycroft flower-shows, where his knowledge of botany was employed to advantage. Photography shared his attention, and at a recent exhibition he secured two first prizes and eight seconds. Mr. Mitchell was 32 years of age, and leaves a widow and one child to mourn his loss.

PUGH.—On February 24, Mr. Geo. Pugh, chemist and druggist, 71 Milsom Road, West Kensington Park, W. Aged 64.

SHERWIN.—At Derby, on March 4, Mr. William Bakewell Sherwin. Deceased was a chemist in his earlier days, and in latter years took an active part in local public duties.

RICE-WINE, OR SAKÉ.—The national drink of Japan, has been so for 2,000 years. It is a powerful drink, containing 14 to 16 per cent. of alcohol, and an attempt by cultured people to introduce English beer has not been a success.—*Drosten Zeitung*.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on March 2 at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, at 3 p.m. Present:—Mr. R. J. Downes (President), Mr. Beggs (Vice-President), Mr. Grindley (Hon. Treasurer), and Messrs. Conyngham, Kelly, Porter, and Dr. Walsh.

DEFAULTING CANDIDATES' FEES.

A letter from the Privy Council asked, in reference to the proposed regulation that candidates entering their names for examination and afterwards failing to present themselves to the examiners shall forfeit half the examiners' fee, whether the Council had considered the expediency of retaining a discretionary power to dispense with the forfeit in any case where the candidate could show good cause for failing to present himself. The letter stated that the regulation as drafted seemed to preclude the Council from exercising such a discretion.

The PRESIDENT said he had directed a reply to be sent to the Privy Council to the effect that it was not the intention of the Council to retain any discretionary power in the matter, as the exercise of it would involve them in continual inquiries in connection with excuses made for non-attendance. The fine in the case of non-attendance at the Licence examination would be only 15s. 3d., and that in the case of the Preliminary 5s. 3d., and the Council were of opinion that the examiners were entitled to their remuneration in each case.

The reply directed by the President was approved of.

CONTROLLING THE EXAMINER.

The following letter was received from Mr. A. L. Doran :—

DEAR SIR,—I do not find your reply quite explicit. Am I to understand that our Council has decided that "recognition of the chemical substances of the Pharmacopœia as laid down in the regulations" is held to include recognition by mere physical characters alone? If this be so, I must respectfully demur to such a strained interpretation of the present regulations, and express my inability to see that any such section falls within my duties as Examiner in Chemistry to our Council.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR L. DORAN.

[The regulation in question is in the following terms:—

General and Pharmaceutical Chemistry.—To recognise the chemical substances of the Pharmacopœia; to describe the processes by which they are obtained; qualitative analysis (including the tests of the Pharmacopœia) and volumetric analysis.]

In reply to a letter from the President, asking him to reconsider his views, Mr. Doran wrote as follows:—

DEAR MR. DOWNES,—I am much obliged for your unofficial letter on my last communication to the Registrar, which, I may state, was simply written to extract a more definite statement of the Council's opinion, since the reply I received was in no sense such an answer as I might reasonably expect to the urgent objections I had advanced against the recommendation drafted in the first instance by the School Committee. May I, then, trouble you, when submitting it to our Council, to supplement the same by the following extended statement?—(1) It is in our opinion irrefutable that the kind of recognition which it is proposed for me to use belongs to that branch of the examination known as *materia medica*. See, for instance, page 146 of our Calendar, sections "A" and "C" of Dr. Falkiner's syllabus of lectures on this subject, which are presumably approved of by our Council. This is also the opinion, as you are aware, of the official visitor, Sir George Dufey, and of Mr. John Smith, my colleague. (2) The scientific objections, from a chemist's point of view, have already been dealt with in a former communication, and remain unanswered. (3) The chemical examination in my hands during the past three or four years has been so conducted as to receive the approval of both the Council and the official visitor. Why, then, it is sought at this period to introduce part of the function of another branch of the examination into my province, I am at a loss to conjecture. When passing my own Licence examination in April, 1893, no such requirement was made by the then examiner. It is, moreover, quite open to question whether it would not be wiser for an examiner, and within his discretion, seeing the very short time at his disposal for *vivæ-vocæ* work, to omit an unessential section in his department, even had such been scheduled in the regula-

tions. (4) I go even further than you, Sir, in considering that a candidate for our licence ought not only to recognise the physical characters (in the restricted official sense) of the inorganic chemicals, but also those of the more commonly occurring organic ones. But it is certainly not the duty of the examiner in chemistry under the present regulations to test this kind of knowledge. In conclusion, I have only to add that I am now, as heretofore, quite willing to meet the views of the Council in any reasonable way. At the same time, however, I have my credit as an examiner to maintain, and sooner than conform to an interpretation of the regulation which, I conceive, would place me in a false and illogical position, I should prefer to resign my position as examiner to our Council.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR L. DORAN.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that every one of Mr. Doran's predecessors conducted the examination according to the regulation as interpreted by the Council, the late Mr. Draper amongst the rest.

Dr. WALSH: The regulation means that the physical characters of the substances should be included in the examination.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: How long has Mr. Doran to go on?

Mr. GRINDLEY: Another year, I think.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: The Council are only asking him to do what previous examiners did.

Mr. CONYNGHAM said it was not done formerly.

Mr. GRINDLEY: The attention of the Council is brought to the matter now.

Mr. KELLY: Where does the hardship come in of doing what he is told to do?

Mr. CONYNGHAM: We are right in laying down a certain rule, but if I were in his position I would not do it.

Mr. GRINDLEY: When the examiners were appointed they undertook to carry out the wishes of the Council. An examiner is not to kick up his heels and examine as he wishes. If so, there would be no occasion for our laying down regulations.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: Better let him go on.

It was decided that Mr. Doran should be informed that the Council could not alter their reading of the regulation.

MAGISTRATES AND PHARMACY LAW.

A letter from the District Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary, Kanturk, forwarded a report from Sergeant Collins, Knocknagoge, stating that Peter Fitzpatrick, of King William's Town, had been fined 10*l.* for unlawfully selling carbolic acid, and keeping open shop for that purpose. The sergeant further reported that the Magistrates who adjudicated upon the case stated that they thought the defendant would do well to memorialise the Lord Lieutenant to have the fine reduced.

DR. NINIAN FALKINER.

Dr. Ninian Falkiner wrote, stating that in consequence of illness he was unable for the present to continue his lectures on *materia medica*, and requesting that a temporary substitute should be appointed.

The PRESIDENT stated that he had appointed Mr. Henry O'Connor, the Secretary of the Society's Evening Meeting Committee.

IRISH LICENTIATES IN THE S.A. REPUBLIC AND THE ORANGE FREE STATE.

The following letters were read from Mr. H. R. Scott L.P.S.I., of Johannesburg, both addressed to the Registrar Mr. Ferrall :—

Johannesburg, January 23, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours I with pleasure give you the following particulars which I have obtained from the Secretary of the Raad Examining Board in this State, and from the corresponding Secretary in the Free State, regarding their treatment of Irish licentiates in their respective States. In the South African Republic licentiate of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland may register on sending his original certificate together with a fee of 12*l.* 10*s.* Then on opening a pharmacy he is required to pay to the State an annual fee of 10*l.* for licence. In the Orange Free State the regulations are exactly the same, with the exception of the registration-fee, which is 3*l.* The certificates given are printed and filled in the Dutch language. The Transvaal makes the candidate a "Chemist en Drogist." The Free State entitles him to call himself "Apotheker Chemist en Drogist."

I am, &c.,

HARRY R. SCOTT.

DEAR SIR,—As a P.S., and with your permission, I would through you give a word of advice to those young Irish pharmacists who might be tempted by salaries advertised to come out here. If you see any prospect of making a comfortable livelihood at home, don't come, for the novelty soon wears off when you realise the expense of ordinary home comforts and find that the ordinary salaries are inadequate. There are no openings here for unqualified men, but a steady qualified man soon drops into something—perhaps not his ideal at first. I would advise anyone coming out *not to sign any agreements* for three years or any other term, thus debarring themselves from better openings which are occasionally cropping up. My personal advice would be, Come on spec. if you must come.

Yours, &c.,
H. R. SCOTT.

The PRESIDENT: We ought to express our thanks to Mr. Scott for the information he has given us.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Scott.

The Honorary Secretary sent particulars of the British Committee of the Ninth International Congress of Hygiene and Demography, to be held at Madrid on April 10, and invited the Council to send delegates thereto. Professor Tichborne was appointed.

AMENDING THE EXAMINATION REGULATIONS.

The PRESIDENT, pursuant to notice, moved the adoption of certain amendments in the regulations with respect to the examinations. The first of these related to the Preliminary examination, and was that the following words should be introduced:—"To translate an easy English sentence into Latin." The object of this was to cure the deficiency of candidates who were not able to parse their Latin, but came up with something, of which they had learned the translation, by heart. The present examiner had asked candidates to translate an English prescription into Latin, but all declared that they were not required to do it. Another amendment was for the purpose of having the Preliminary examinations on Tuesday instead of Monday, so that candidates would not be obliged to come up on Saturday and spend Sunday in town. The object of a third amendment was to oblige candidates for the Licence to read in full the Latin prescriptions that were given to them to translate.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded the motion for the adoption of the above amendments, which was agreed to without dissent.

NEW MEMBERS.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the HON. TREASURER, the following gentlemen were elected members of the Society:—Mr. J. J. McHugh, Athy; and Mr. G. A. Patterson, Passage West, co. Cork.

On the motion of Professor TICHBORNE, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, the following gentlemen were nominated for membership:—Mr. John Burnett, Dublin; Mr. James A. Doyle, Belfast; and Mr. William S. Duggan, Rathmines (Dublin co.).

Trade-Marks Applied for.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," February 23, 1898.)

"KELPIE"; for starch gloss. By J. C. Walker, 196 West Regent Street, Glasgow, starch-glaze manufacturer. 210,748.

"GLOBENA"; for all goods in Class 48. By Cooper & Co., 80 Gloucester Road, South Kensington, pharmaceutical chemists, 209,718.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," March 2, 1898.)

"COTOLAN"; for all goods included in Class I. By L. Cassella & Co., 19 Liebigstrasse, Frankfort-on-Main, manufacturing chemists. 210,095.

Label with signature; for veterinary medicines. By Argent & Tuff, 66 Fenchurch Street, E.C., medicine vendors. 210,611.

"ACOINE"; for anaesthetics. By Chemische Fabrik von Heyden Gesellschaft Mit Beschränkter Haftung, Radebeul, Dresden, Saxony, manufacturers. 210,294.

Device, including the representation of the head of applicant; for a prepared food. By Muayon's Homoeopathic Home Remedy Company, 121 and 123 Shaftesbury Avenue, W. 210,637.

"SELOC"; a toilet-preparation for the hair. By F. Coles, Ashley Road, Boscombe, hairdresser. 211,142.

The Winter Session.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN. The evening meeting of this Society took place on March 8 at 17 Bloomsbury Square, at 8 P.M., Mr. Walter Hills (President) in the chair. Professor GREENISH read a paper by himself and Mr. Harold Wilson on

THE PHARMACY OF CANTHARIDES,

in which he said that he knew of no more appropriate place than the laboratory of the Society for carrying out investigations on pharmacy. He referred to the efforts which had been made towards standardising potent remedies, and presenting a definite quantity of the pure active ingredient in solution, or by making the preparation from the drug and afterwards assaying. As in the case of cantharides the assay of cantharidin was impracticable owing to the small quantity present, it was proposed to make the preparations of this drug with cantharidin. The efforts of the authors were directed to finding out the proportions of cantharidin extracted by the several official processes, which cover a variety of menstrua, and do not completely exhaust the drug. Cantharidin they found in two forms—free, soluble in chloroform, and combined, insoluble in chloroform. The investigation began by first determining the cantharidin in the powdered flies, and led to a series of experiments in assaying the flies. The chief objection to most of the processes was the error in weighing cantharidin, as the solvents extracted fat and resinous substances, and removing the fat by petroleum ether or carbon disulphide caused an appreciable quantity of the cantharidin to enter in solution, as although it was not in the pure state soluble in these solvents, when combined with fat it was. In dissolving out the resinous matter with spirit they also found some of the cantharidin was dissolved. The method of avoiding these errors was to make allowances, which were, however, unreliable, as they varied from 8 to 18 mgr. in 20 grammes, and were also unadvisable. In devising their process, the authors did not aim at a short one, but rather one which should give the cantharidin in a pure state. The method used was to moisten the flies with a mixture of glacial acetic acid, rectified spirit, and chloroform—a menstruum which extracts the whole of the cantharidin and evaporates quickly—and exhaust in a Soxhlet's extractor, and after evaporation the fat and resin left with the cantharidin were removed, and the cantharidin recovered from the petroleum spirit and spirit and added to the main quantity—thus in this manner obtaining the whole of the cantharidin. Two samples of cantharides were assayed, and the better of them was used in the experiments. This contained 5075 per cent. of free cantharidin and 1725 of combined—total, 68. The lecturer then gave the result of their experiments on the various preparations as regards the yield of cantharidin:—

Liq. Epispasticus.

Cantharidin in flies	...	...	136
Cantharidin extracted	...	...	141
Error	...	...	·005

The error was due to an impurity present, the acetic ether taking out some other body than cantharidin. The authors thought that the satisfactory exhaustion shown was in a measure due to acetic acid present in the acetic ether.

Tr. Cantharidis.

Cantharidin in flies	...	...	136
Cantharidin extracted by spirit	123
Cantharidin left in flies	·014
			— 137

Error	·001
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Emp. Cantharidis.

Cantharidin in flies	136
Cantharidin extracted	·04
Left in flies (by difference)	...		·096

The results in this case, which show only a third of the cantharidin to be extracted, were only claimed as approxi-

mate, as during the maceration of the cantharides in the melted plaster which was required for separating the flies there is no doubt that much of the cantharidin goes into solution.

Emp. Calefaciens.

Cantharidin in flies	...	...	136
Cantharidin extracted by water	...	...	.088
Cantharidin left in flies	...	...	.042
		—	130
Error	...	...	.006

In this plaster the good results obtained were a surprise, as the process of macerating the flies in water adopted in making this plaster was not thought to be of any use in extracting cantharidin, it not being soluble in water. The explanation, the authors thought, was that some other principle was present probably in loose combination, and took the cantharidin into solution.

Ung. Cantharidis.

Cantharidin in flies	...	...	136
Cantharidin extracted by oil (free)	...	...	.049
Cantharidin left in flies	...	...	.036
Cantharidin left (combined)	...	...	.034
		—	119
			.017

In this preparation it will be noted that only a third of the cantharidin was extracted. In regard to acetum cantharidis the authors failed to work the official process, the ingredients formed a kind of a magma, and the experiments had to be abandoned. *Charta epispasticus* they had not attempted, as it was agreed to be a quite unsatisfactory article and would not, he expected, be included in the new Pharmacopoeia.

The following table shows the cantharidin found in the official preparations and the strength proposed in the formulæ submitted to take the place of the ones at present in the Pharmacopœia. The 2nd column is a record of the strength proposed by Dieterich some years ago:—

Cantharidin in Preparations.

	Found	Proposed	Proposed by Dieterich
Acetum ...	—	1 in 2,000	—
Empl. calefac. ...	1 in 5,454	1 in 5,000	—
Emp. canthar. ...	1 in 1,500	1 in 1,000	1 in 289
Liq. epispast. ...	1 in 588	1 in 300	1 in 316
Tinctura ...	1 in 12,963	1 in 10,000	—
Unguentum ...	1 in 2,653	1 in 3,000	1 in 1,306

The formulæ proposed are—

Liquor Epispasticus.

	Parts
Cantharidin
Castor oil
Resin
Acetic ether to	...
	300

This preparation is stronger than that of the liq. epispasticus of the B.P. Castor oil and resin are added to replace the fat naturally present in the flies, and which serves to prevent the cantharidin from crystallising on the part.

Collodium vesicans it was proposed to make by dissolving 1 part of pyroxylin in 240 of liq. epispasticus. They propose the smaller quantity of pyroxylin, as the present Pharmacopœia formula yields too thick a preparation.

Tinctura Cantharidis.

	Parts
Cantharidin ...	...
Chloroform ...	...
Rectified spirit to	...
	1,000

The cantharidin is first dissolved in the chloroform, and then added to the spirit.

Acetum Cantharidis.

	Par
Cantharidin ...	...
Glacial acetic acid ...	...
Acetic acid to	...
	1 200 2,00

Dissolve the cantharidin in the glacial acetic acid by a water-bath.

Cantharidin does not dissolve readily without warming, but when once dissolved is a permanent solution, and does not appear to crystallise out.

Unguentum Cantharidis.

	Parts
Cantharidin ...	...
Chloroform ...	...
	1
Dissolve and add to	
Yellow wax ...	...
Olive oil ...	...
	499 2,500

previously melted, and warm till the chloroform is dissipated.

When made 1 in 2,000 and applied on lint to the arm, blisters very much, and as it is considered undesirable that cantharides ointment should blister 1 in 3,000 is suggested as a suitable strength.

Emplastrum Cantharidis.

Cantharidin ...	...	...	...	1 part
Chloroform ...	...	...	...	a sufficiency
Yellow wax, prepared suet, and resin, of each equal parts	...	...	...	999 parts

This plaster softens readily, and can be spread without any difficulty. When applied to the skin it has sufficient adhesive power to remain on the skin, and, when the blister has risen, can be taken off easily.

Emplastrum Calefaciens.

Cantharidin ...	...	...	...	1 part
Chloroform ...	...	...	...	a sufficiency
Olive oil ...	...	...	...	199 parts
Resin plaster ...	...	...	...	4,800 parts

This is the official form simplified. Dissolve the cantharidin in the chloroform by the aid of heat, and add to the mixture of oil and resin plaster, previously melted in a water-bath, and continue the heat till the chloroform is dissipated.

In concluding the paper Professor Greenish mentioned that they found cantharides in fatty basis a better blister than a liquid preparation, and had found a mixture of cantharidin and lanoline in the proportion of 1 in 10,000 blister better than a liquor containing 1 in 300. The authors claimed for their formulæ that they yielded preparations of definite strength, readily made, and not wanting in elegance or efficacy.

The PRESIDENT thanked the authors for their valuable and interesting paper. He was glad that such a paper originated from the laboratory of the Pharmaceutical Society, and hoped it was only one of many more to come. He would like to know how the combined cantharidin occurred, and if free and combined cantharidin were identical.

Mr. MARTINDALE said the paper was of great interest to them as pharmacists. He thought it was desirable that they should have something very definite to work upon in making preparations of cantharides, and the lines the authors had taken in regard to using pure cantharidin were probably the best that could be adopted. One great difficulty in regard to cantharidin was that when in a pure condition (as the authors pointed out), it was not very soluble in hot solution, and was apt to crystallise. They had used chloroform as a solvent; but he found cantharidin was apt to separate in crystals on cooling. Acetone and formic acid were better solvents. He noticed that acetic ether had proved a good solvent in making the liquor. He had found the process of the 1867 Pharmacopœia very good—in fact, better than the present one. With regard to acetum cantharides, in the early volumes of the official journal it was debated as to whether the acetum cantharides was a useful preparation or not. Professor Redwood had the idea that much of its blistering action was due to acetic acid rather than to the cantharidin. When he was an apprentice he was told that the cantharides

should not be sprinkled in the plaster-mass when too hot. This, however, was a mistake. It ought to be put in while the mixture was hot, and the heat sustained for some considerable length of time. He would like to know how the authors had found the cantharidin to act in regard to sublimation.

Mr. C. B. ALLEN suggested that the preparations should be coloured in some way. He did not think so many colourless preparations of potent remedies desirable.

Mr. H. COLLIER had found the action of liq. epispasticus and emp. cantharides varied according to the skin of the patient.

Mr. J. C. UMLEY also joined in the discussion.

Professor GREENISH, replying, said that they assumed the cantharidin probably existed as a magnesium or calcium salt. They suggested chloroform as a solvent because it was already in the Pharmacopœia, and they did not see any advantage in using acetone or formic acid. Cantharidin volatilises very readily from the water-bath, but not completely. He would like to add that the experimental part of the work had been done entirely by Mr. Wilson.

Mr. E. M. HOLMES then read some notes on

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MUSEUM,

calling attention to samples of rhatany—the Peruvian one giving a tincture making a cloudy mixture when mixed with 7 parts of water; a tincture from the Pará sample, on the other hand, giving a clear solution under these circumstances.

SEPTEMBER SAPINDUS MUKOROSSI,

Indian soap-nuts, owed their use to the saponin they contained. A tincture from these nuts was paler in colour and had less odour than a quillaia tincture, which was an advantage when it was added to colourless liquids as a froth-producer. He also called attention to a sample of cascara-bark covered with moss, given by Mr. John Moss (*C. & D.*, February 26, page 368). Some samples of

ASAFOETIDA

were shown, one the pure tears from the Persian Gulf with 1 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of ash, and another from Bombay containing broken-up flints and giving 60 per cent. of ash. Attention was next called to some

SYNTHETIC PERFUMES,

which included artificial jasmin, neroli, geranol, and ion one and a series of oils suitable for making culinary essences—viz., oils of parsnip, sage, celery, lovage, carrot-seed, parsley, laurel-leaves, and tarragon. Also Frejar oil used for perfuming soap, terpeneless oil of turmeric, and oil of kuro-moji. Some samples of Carthagena and Rio ipecacuanha were shown, and the relative yields of emetine and cephaeline from a pound of each shown—the Carthagena yielding a large quantity of cephaeline and small quantity of emetine, and the Rio variety the reverse. A sample of wood-oil was shown (some particulars of this oil are given in *C. & D.*, February 26, page 357). In calling attention to some samples of

ROSIN OIL,

an oil becoming much used as a substitute for linseed oil he (Mr. Holmes) thought that some of the cheap specimens of amber oil were nothing but refined rosin oil. Samples of

OMPHALEA MEGACARPA,

a nut from which an oil with similar properties to castor oil was obtained, were next shown. The oil has absolutely no taste. Some specimens of indiarubber from New Guinea, of good consistency and quality, were also alluded to.

Mr. MOSS asked if anything in regard to the age of the sample of cascara-bark shown could be learned from the moss on the bark. From inquiries he had made on the Pacific Coast he found that cascara was not a shrub—it was rather a tree like a cherry or plum tree. He also found that the sample of mossy cascara had been grown in a damp position, and that cascara preferred a damp soil.

Mr. HOLMES, in replying, said he formed the idea that the cascara-bark alluded to was five or six years old. He was not surprised to hear about the size of the cascara-plant, judging from *Rhamnus Purshiana*, which he had found sometimes with a trunk of large size.

The customary votes of thanks were given, and the

audience adjourned to the Examination-hall for cake and coffee, where the President was heard feelingly inquiring of Mr. Harold Wilson if the blisters had all healed.

PHARMACY IN IRELAND.

THIS was the subject of a lecture read by Mr. T. W. RONINSON, ex-examiner, before the Irish Pharmacists' Assistants' Association at their usual fortnightly meeting, held on March 4, Mr. W. J. Hardy, M.P.S.I. (President), in the chair. Mr. Robinson first disclaimed any intention of posing as an authority. He purposed to give merely his own views and experience, and to avoid all contentious points. Up to 1875 the pharmaceutical business in Ireland was exclusively in the hands of the licentiates of the Apothecaries' Hall, and consisted of the compounding of prescriptions and the sale of drugs. In the principal towns were a few druggists, who had no power to dispense prescriptions, but who, nevertheless, enjoyed a profitable and irresponsible business. The gradual decline in popularity of the diploma of the Hall as a full qualification, and the evident tendency of medical practitioners to take full qualifications both in medicine and surgery, began to make itself felt, and a number of the leading druggists of Dublin and the provinces formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of having a Pharmacy Act passed, urged all the more strongly to that course by the fact that the Apothecaries' Hall had taken legal proceedings to restrain some Dublin druggists from compounding prescriptions by the aid of an apothecary, just as certain grocers nowadays endeavoured to carry on dispensing with the help of a licentiate of the Pharmaceutical Society. The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. M. Hodgson, carried on the matter with such energy and enthusiasm that their efforts were entirely successful, and avoiding an invitation from the English Pharmaceutical Society to unite forces, and have the one qualification current for the kingdom, they carried in triumph the Pharmacy Act of 1875. There was no doubt that the desire of the Pharmaceutical Council at the formation of the Society was to establish a race of thoroughly well-educated men worthy of carrying on the business, which up to that time had been in the hands of the apothecaries, and their decision to ignore the clause in the Act of 1875 empowering them to create a second grade of chemists and druggists was a *bona-fide* earnest of that intention. Nine-tenths of the apothecaries' assistants, at the passing of the Act, regarded the shop as the natural stepping-stone to the medical profession, and looked with a certain amount of scorn upon the interloping Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. It was against that prejudice that the Society had to make its way, and prove by hard work and self-reliance that a pharmaceutical chemist could be a good business man, and as much a gentleman as if he called his establishment a "surgery" or an "apothecary's hall." An L.P.S.I. should be proud of his qualification, which was obtained by an examination second to none in the kingdom as regarded the curriculum. With the progress of the Society, its educational tests had advanced, and it was no uncommon thing nowadays to find from twenty-four to forty candidates presenting themselves at one time for the Preliminary examination. When this was compared with the old state of affairs when men invariably took the Preliminary of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland or some kindred examination, it must be a source of gratification to those who took an interest in the Society. The licence examination had also expanded, and now constituted a very complete test of a candidate's ability; in his opinion, it had fewer defects than any examination with which he was acquainted. He did not believe it was one which could be passed on a three months' "grind." It required study, reading, slow thought, and good experience. He thought, with regard to the pharmacy portion of the examination, that since the assistants' examination came into force the Council might reasonably consider the advisability of exempting a qualified assistant from at least a portion of the pharmacy at the Licence examination. The compounding might reasonably be dispensed with, as no assistant ought to get a certificate unless his compounding was equal to all the requirements of a pharmacy.

THE PHARMACY OF THE SEVENTIES

was undoubtedly practical; every chemist and apothecary *

manufactured his own tinctures, liquors, pills, ointments, infusions, &c., and handled the raw material. To-day the pharmacist is surrounded by a regiment of specialities in the shape of coated pills, capsules, compressed drugs, concentrated infusions and tinctures, liquors for syrups, and spread plasters which tended to make the compounder's lot a happy one indeed; and so well had those classes of goods taken on with the medical profession that it was quite possible for a compounder to put from sixty to eighty items through his hands daily and not meet with more than five sets of pills in the lot. The medical faculty was becoming more partial than ever to coated pills, tablets, &c., and the pharmacist who failed to keep a fairly representative stock of such articles found his compounding department very troublesome. Whether pharmacy should be considered

A PROFESSION OR A TRADE

was a much debated point. His own opinion was that pharmacy might be either or both, according to the desire of the pharmacist. It was a business when the proprietor—a man possessing a high medical qualification—vended pennyworths of *sapo mollis* across the counter, and was surrounded by chamois-skins, chandlery, kegs of putty, white-lead, &c. It was a profession when all things were in keeping with the term. Having given statistics of the population of the chief towns in Ireland, the lecturer went on to say there were only twenty towns or cities in Ireland where it was possible to build up a really substantial pharmaceutical business; in twenty more localities a pharmaceutical trade pure and simple, might be worked up by great efforts; but in seventy other towns a mixed trade was absolutely necessary. The field for the professional pharmacist was limited, and as many Dublin pharmacists had lately declared themselves opposed to handling quack medicines it became a nice question what was the limit of professional pharmacy, and where did the repudiation of "quack medicines" begin and end. Pure pharmacy of the "professional" type consisted in the compounding of prescriptions and the sale of drugs and surgical appliances; and if a pharmacist found it possible to carry on business on those lines nobody would dispute his right to the term "professional"; but it was also practicable to carry on a professional business, and at the same time accommodate the public with

PATENTS AND PROPRIETARIES.

The introduction of so many specialities had made it almost impossible to carry on the pharmaceutical calling exclusively. Twenty years ago an apothecary who turned over 1,000*l.* in twelve months realised an income of 600*l.* or more. At present, a similar turnover yielded the barest living. A smaller turnover than 1,000*l.* would not admit of the luxury of an assistant, and without an assistant a pharmacist was far from being envied. The prescription profits were of late years exceedingly small, and bore no comparison with those of ten or fifteen years ago. They were not commensurate with the trouble and responsibility involved in conducting a first-class pharmacy. Two factors were responsible: the prescribing of proprietary drugs by doctors, and

THE CUTTING OF PRICES.

Referring to the latter point Mr. Robinson said pharmacists could put an end to it if they would only pull together. Fortunately, the extreme cutting of prescriptions in Dublin was limited to a couple of houses, but the pricing of prescriptions was still far from satisfactory. He thought a uniform scale of charges was badly wanted, and suggested the following as a fairly satisfactory standard:—

<i>Mixtures</i>	... 1 oz.	2 oz.	3 oz.	4 oz.	6 to 8 oz.	10 oz.
	... 1s.	8d.	10d.	1s. 2d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 6d.
						1s. 10d.
	12 oz.	16 oz.				
	2s.	2s. 6d.				
<i>Lotions</i> ...	... 1 oz.	6 oz.	8 to 10 oz.	12 oz.	16 oz.	
		1s. 4d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 8d.	1s. 10d.	
<i>Pills</i> ...	... 1 oz.	2	4	6	12	24
		3d.	4d.	6d.	10d.	1s. 6d.
<i>Ointment</i>	... 1 oz.	1 oz.	2 oz.	4 oz.		
	8d.	10d.	1s. 4d.	2s.		
<i>Powders</i> ...	... 1 oz.	1	2	6	12	24
		2d.	4d.	9d.	1s. 6d.	
<i>Suppositories</i> ...	... 1 oz.	3d.	each, or 2s.	6d.	per dozen	

PROFITABLE EXTRAS

were referred to by the lecturer. Mineral-water manufacture, photographic chemicals, &c., were recommended. A man who elected to do a prescribing trade undertook a serious responsibility. In small towns the pharmacist had no choice but to work up a general business.

THE POSITION OF THE PHARMACIST'S ASSISTANT

had enormously improved within the last twenty years, both as regarded hours and salary. Up to ten years ago the indoor salary in Ireland was from 20*l.* to 40*l.*, and the outdoor from 52*l.* to 80*l.*, and for managers from 100*l.* to 120*l.* outdoors; of late years the range was much higher, the indoor salary being from 30*l.* to 60*l.* per annum, and the outdoor from 60*l.* to 150*l.*, while in most houses the ordinary day's duty finished at 6 o'clock in the evening. This compared very favourably with the days of his own apprenticeship. Mr. Robinson also pointed out the desirability of mutual forbearance and co-operation on the part of assistants and employers.

COMPOUNDING.

The first step in compounding a prescription was to read it. He did not mean mere scanning, but careful mental digest of the document. The first result of carefully reading the prescription was the proper pricing of the mixture to perhaps a cash-customer. The proper reading of a prescription enabled the compounder to know whether there was likely to be any difficulty in its preparation, and he was saved from falling into the error of promising in a half-hour a mixture which might occupy two hours to compound. He had seen at the examinations candidates who read the prescriptions over and over again, and then wandered aimlessly about looking for ingredients which they did not want, having evidently not grasped what was required. On the other hand, he had seen men at the examination take up a prescription and read it with obvious intelligence, write the labels, and do the work with the accuracy, neatness, and confidence of the trained compounder. It was an open secret that the pharmacy portion of the Licence examination had for years past been far from satisfactory. That was not to be wondered at, as the facilities for examining the candidates were not granted until comparatively recently, and the difficulties encountered might be judged from the fact that, although a compounding-bench had been fitted up for six candidates, only three pairs of scales were provided. It was only within the last two years that the difficulty in that respect was settled and candidates afforded a chance of turning out the work in reasonable time. Now candidates had little to complain of, as they had every facility for properly compounding and finishing off a great variety of work. In a moderately busy pharmacy one man should copy the prescriptions, write the labels, check, and finish off the mixture when compounded. The dispenser should leave in a line until checked all the drugs used. He had the most implicit faith in that system, and never knew a mistake to happen where it was carried out. Powders should be weighed, not divided by hand. Pills should in every case be made in a good firm mass, small, and divided evenly, and finished off with the rounder. Strict attention to the details of label-trimming and capping bottles was impressed on his hearers. Clean bottles and plainly-written labels were indispensable—typewritten labels pleased the public best of all. The speaker concluded his address by quoting the well-known chemists' toast beginning "May his occupation never become a drug on the market as long as he sticks like his own plasters to business."

BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

A MEETING of the Executive Committee was held at 16 Bloomsbury Square on March 3. Present: Dr. C. Symes (President), in the chair, Messrs. Martindale and Martin (Vice-Presidents), Professor Greenish, Messrs. Bird, Collier, Farr, and White, Messrs. Naylor and Ransom (Hon. General Secretaries), and Mr. Nightingale (Assistant-Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The SECRETARY reported that letters had been received from Messrs. Laidlaw Ewing, Walter Hills, Guiler, Payne, Wells, and Wright, regretting their inability to be present.

Mr. NAYLOR reported that, on behalf of the Committee, he had written a letter of condolence to Mr. Beynon on the death of his father, the late Hon. Colonial Secretary of the Conference for Madras.

Letters were read from Mr. J. J. Prebble, accepting the position of Hon. Colonial Secretary for Bengal, and from Mr. J. Stanley Smith, accepting a similar position for Bombay.

The following members were appointed a sub-committee to revise the Blue List previous to its circulation:—Professor Greenish and Messrs. Bird, J. C. Umney, White, and Ransom.

A resolution was passed expressing the deep regret felt by members of the Executive at the loss sustained by the Conference by the death of Mr. M. Conroy, of Liverpool, and the Secretaries were requested to write to Mrs. Conroy expressing the deep sympathy felt for her and her family in their bereavement.

The PRESIDENT stated that he had received a letter from Mr. McKnight, the Hon. Local Secretary at Belfast, reporting satisfactory progress in the arrangements for the approaching meeting of the Conference.

A letter was read from Mr. C. J. Park, on behalf of the Plymouth Chemists' Association, stating that they were prepared to offer a cordial invitation to the Conference to meet in Plymouth in 1899. The consideration of the subject was deferred until the next meeting of the Executive.

It was reported that letters had been received from various Associations thanking the Conference for copies of the *Year-book*.

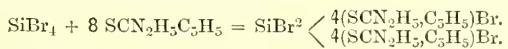
Eight gentlemen, having been duly nominated, were elected to membership.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

AT the Friday evening lecture on March 4 Professor T. E. THORPE, F.R.S., delivered a lecture on

SOME RECENT RESULTS OF PHYSICO-CHEMICAL INQUIRY.

The lecturer began by likening the domain of chemical physics to Africa, and said that as yet only a very small portion of the subject had been explored. The lecturer dealt with the viscosity of liquids, the systematic investigation of which had yielded some good results. The relative viscosity of liquids such as paraffin and glycerine was demonstrated by allowing them to escape from similar-sized pipettes. Speaking of the influence of dissolved gases on the viscosity of liquids, the lecturer showed the apparatus used in the Government laboratory for depriving beer of its dissolved gases, and illustrated its action in stirring water and glycerine, the latter being, he said, 4,000 times more viscous than water. As instances of extremely viscous liquids, mention was made of the so-called metaphosphoryl chloride and the compound obtained by Professor Emerson Reynolds by the action of silicon tetrabromide on allyl-thiocarbamide represented by the following formula:—



A vessel containing either of these substances required inverting for some weeks before any movement became apparent. Viscosity, the lecturer continued, was not confined to liquids; lead, he showed, when pressed in a hydraulic press was viscous, and even steel rails, according to the experiments of Professor Roberts Austen, show evidence of viscosity, the lines of flow being due to the pressure employed in fashioning them. Condensed gases were extremely mobile liquids, and were fifteen times less viscous than water. The conditions affecting viscosity were next dealt with, temperature affecting it to the greatest extent. A table of the viscosity of water at various temperatures was shown, and it was pointed out that the abnormality of the expansion of water under cold caused no such anomaly in viscosity. The co-efficient of viscosity was defined as the force required to move a layer of liquid across another layer. Sea-water was more viscous than fresh water, owing to the salts in solution, and the increase of viscosity due to the cooling of the Gulf Stream was, the lecturer thought, a very important factor in the study of ocean currents.

THE EXHIBITS

in the library were chiefly of chemical apparatus. Townson & Mercer (89 Bishopsgate Street, E.C.) were showing various laboratory-contrivances in aluminium. Baird & Tatlock (14 Cross Street, Hatton Garden E.C.) among other apparatus had Dr. Marshall's new Bunsen burner, which has the central tube open throughout its length, and so cannot get choked through matter falling down the tube. Mr. Cossor (Farringdon Road, E.C.) was showing in practical working his focus-tubes for x-ray work, which he has lately improved with the object of overcoming astigmatism-effects. O. Berend & Co. (Dunedin House, Basinghall Avenue, E.C.) were attracting much attention by their exhibit of electrical apparatus, especially the cooking-appliances. Fletcher, Russell & Co. (Warrington) were also there with some forms of their muffle-furnaces, the kind adapted for artistic enamels being shown in several sizes.

THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE first paper taken at the meeting on March 3 was by Messrs. JOHN WADE, B.Sc., and LAURENCE C. PANTING, M.B., on

THE PREPARATION OF ANHYDROUS HYDROGEN CYANIDE AND CARBON MONOXIDE.

The authors had studied the action of sulphuric acid on cyanide of potassium with a view of settling the conditions under which such diverse products as hydrocyanic acid and carbonic oxide are formed. On allowing a cold mixture of equal volumes of sulphuric acid and water to drop on to 98 per cent. "lump" potassium cyanide, prussic acid, accompanied by traces of water only, is evolved in almost theoretical amount, and with the aid of suitable condensing-apparatus is readily collected in quantity. With concentrated sulphuric acid, and at the ordinary temperature, nearly pure carbon monoxide is evolved in quantity approaching the theoretical, and, if precautions are taken, it is free from dioxide, and is accompanied only by small quantities of prussic acid. Mr. Wade described some experiments, showing that at any rate part of the water required for the production of the carbonic oxide is derived either from the sulphuric acid itself or from the potassium hydrogen sulphate formed in the course of the action, and that consequently the sulphuric acid acts at the same instant both as a hydrolysing and as a dehydrating agent.

An account of the next two papers was given by Professor COLLIE, with whom were associated Miss L. Hall and Mr. Thomas Tickle. The subject was

THE PRODUCTION OF SOME NITRO- AND AMIDO-OXYLUTIDINES.

Professor Collie some time ago drew attention to the fact that various nitro- and amido-derivatives of pyridine could be readily obtained from certain oxy-pyridine compounds. The colour-reactions especially of these derivatives resemble those of the alkaloids, and it is in the hope of arriving at some light on the constitution of the latter that the research was continued. The first paper deals with pseudolutidostyryl derivatives. The amido-pseudolutidostyryl bases give with ferric chloride first a red and then a bright-green colour, and when dissolved in strong sulphuric acid, if a drop of fuming nitric acid be added, a brilliant purple colour is momentarily produced.

The second paper dealt with an amido-lutidone, which does not give characteristic colour-reactions, but acts as a strong reducing-agent. The platinichloride is unstable; it undergoes reduction when dissolved in water and warmed, but if its hydrochloric-acid solution is boiled a very insoluble platinichloride separates, which seems to be the salt of propine diamine, the decomposition having been brought about by hydrolysis, $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O} + 3\text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{N}_2 + 2\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2$. This breaking down of the pyridine ring is of considerable interest, and in a substance like lutidone is hardly to be expected, since the nitrogen atom is bound to two carbon atoms, neither of which are united to oxygen, and, moreover, lutidone is not the anhydride of an amide-acid.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. WYNNE made some suggestions as to the formulae laid down by Professor Collie to explain the constitution of his nitro-pseudolutidostyryls.

Mr. LING remembered that certain anilides give, when treated with oxidising-agents, similar colour-reactions. Professor DUNSTAN, Dr. THORNE, and the PRESIDENT also took part in the discussion. The next paper was by Dr. F. E. MATTHEWS

ON BENZENE HEXABROMIDE.

Dr. Matthews was unable to obtain the second benzene hexabromide of Orndorf and Howells, two American chemists. He had also studied the action of alcoholic soda on benzene hexabromide, and obtained a mixture of para-dibromobenzene and 1:2:4 tribromobenzene. Professor TILDEN congratulated Dr. Matthews on resuming work on these compounds, and corroborated a statement as to the yield of the hexachloride.

Professor COLLIE followed with a

NOTE ON THE ACTION OF BROMINE ON BENZENE, by himself and Colin C. Frye. They have obtained ortho-compounds by the action of bromine on excess of benzene in direct sunlight, when dibromo-addition products are formed. Mr. GROVES inquired whether the phthalic acid had been obtained by sublimation, as the test is very delicate. Dr. Matthews had been unable to obtain a di-halogen-addition product by the action of halogens on excess of pure benzene.

The next paper was by Mr. C. E. RICE, B.A.,

ON MANGANIC SALTS.

He finds that the decomposition of manganic chloride in solution into manganous chloride and chlorine is reversible, the velocity of the reverse change being very small. Two crystalline double manganic chlorides, $2\text{KCl} \cdot \text{MnCl}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $2\text{NH}_4\text{Cl} \cdot \text{MnCl}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, were described and exhibited, but no evidence of the existence of any compound of the formula MnCl_4 could be obtained.

The last paper read was by Mr. W. COLEBROOK REYNOLDS on

SOME CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF CONCENTRATED SOLUTIONS OF CERTAIN SALTS. PART I.—POTASSIUM CARBONATE.

When the salts of certain other metals are added to a concentrated solution of potassium carbonate, instead of the normal or basic carbonates which are formed when a dilute solution is employed, double salts are formed which are sometimes, as in the cases of iron, copper, nickel, and cobalt, soluble in the solution. These double salts and their solutions are decomposed by water. To obtain them, the acetate is added to a concentrated solution of potassium carbonate (sp. gr. 1.55), and the liquid left to crystallise. The author has isolated a number of carbonates, including copper, manganese, lime, cobalt, and bismuth, with potash.

A long discussion followed, in which Professor TILDEN led the way; and Mr. A. G. BLOXAM remarked that if carbonic acid is regarded as a hydroxy-acid, the formation of a deep-blue coloured solution by mixing a concentrated solution of potassium carbonate with a solution of copper sulphate become of interest as bringing carbonic acid into line with other hydroxy-acids, all, or nearly all, of which were known to give deep-blue coloured solutions with copper sulphate and alkali sufficient to satisfy both the acidic and phenolic or alcoholic-hydroxyl groups. Mr. W. P. BLOXAM was inclined to attribute much of the action to a hydrolysis of the potassium-carbonate solution. Mr. REYNOLDS, in his reply, stated that the composition of the double succinates, when the same phenomena took place, forbids such an interpretation.

DRUG JOURNALS AND THEIR ADVERTISERS.

By ARTHUR MCKELLAR, Pharmaceutical Chemist.

(Read at a meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association, March 8, 1898)

EVERY trade of consequence has its special trade journal or journals, and ours, which is of the greatest consequence, is not behind in this respect. Journals of this description, catering for a special class of readers, may be said to circulate exclusively amongst that class, and advertisers wishing to draw attention to their wares will naturally

advertise in the trade papers most affected by their probable customers.

Generally speaking, therefore, we may expect to find the largest amount of advertising matter of interest to the drug-trade in the paper having the greatest circulation amongst druggists.

A trade journal, if managed on strict commercial lines, finds its best interests to be those of its readers, and endeavours always to supply information that shall be of greatest value to its patrons—in short, to make itself absolutely necessary to the business life of the pharmacist. All items of trade interest must be recorded in its pages, and its readers supplied with any information of general interest that they may require. Scarcely any trade can present a more varied list of commodities dealt in than our own, and it can be no small matter to run a journal of interest and information to every section of the drug business, in one and the same issue to discuss the latest about crythrol nitrate and the latest formulæ for the manufacture of sticky fly-gum. All this requires on the part of the editor a grasp of trade and trade topics, and a versatility that can only come by long experience. I shall never cease to admire the ease with which the contents of, say, "Anxious Subscriber's" "Tonic Liver Syrup" are detected down to the actual (approximate) amount of those ingredients present; it is only an instance of the aforesaid editor's versatility, and no doubt satisfies "Anxious Subscriber."

The regular perusal of such a journal becomes a necessary portion of a druggist's education and of his business library, and its regular use for reference becomes an inducement for advertisers to introduce their merchandise—consequently, the larger the circulation the correspondingly greater the amount of advertisements. Also the more advertisements, the more their authors will strive to make them interesting and attractive so that they will not become lost to sight in the mass.

I propose to criticise some of these advertisements as seen through a retailer's spectacles. In the first place I consider advertisements interspersed amongst the literary matter as matter in the wrong place. I am very conservative with regard to the magazines I get bound, and would very much like to have bound copies of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST upon my shelves, rather than my floor littered with the weekly numbers, but I most strongly object to keep a record of "Our Town Traveller's" peregrinations, or to have a permanent monument of the fact that Mr. Blank has just issued his annual 80-page illustrated almanack, or a few swatches of poetry about Smith's "Suicide." These items are of passing interest only, and would be better in a portion of the paper where the binder could tear them out. My remarks apply chiefly to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, as the most typical organ of the trade in our country, but may also in a lesser degree apply to the other drug periodicals.

The market reports are invaluable, and are of special value for all time reference.

Taking up the last Winter Issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, it might be interesting to give a chemist's view of the advertisements specially designed for his edification. A great number are disappointing; they may give a good description of their article, testimonials, or analytical reports perhaps, but fail to give what the dealer most wants to know—the cost. Instead of that appear the statements, "write for our catalogue," "send for particulars," or "prices upon application." Does it never strike the advertiser that the retailer generally gives his orders to the party who brings particulars with him? Over and over again this fault occurs. Take one example. "Edme Malt Extract," a full page advertisement, in a prominent position, with no financial particulars whatever. Amongst all the makers of malt-extract, what special chance is there that the average dealer is going to write to them? Price is no criterion of value, I admit, but being in this business for a living, I require to know the cash advantages I am likely to gain. Another example. Two full pages are taken up with the announcement Blank Eau de Cologne has gained the only gold medal. Agents, So-and-so. What advantage can this be to the agents? Has it any value?

A great number of advertisements seem to be of this order—a species of run-away knock at the door of business. Nothing seems more useful to my mind than the illustrated catalogues

sent out in this Winter Issue. Everything in the way of information is supplied. Take Allen & Hanburys' advertisement as a good model. Here you have no superfluous reading-matter, but broad, well-displayed type, giving all the necessary particulars, and accompanied by an illustration of the article.

Take up, now, an American journal, say the *Druggists' Circular*, or the *Pharmaceutical Record*, and compare. America is said to be the home of successful advertising, and it may be interesting to notice the differences between their style and ours. Here the mixing up of literary and advertising matter, as complained of in **THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST**, is very rampant. I expect it is all paid for or it would not be there. The variety of advertisements is infinite, and what is most striking is the amount of space covered by illustrations, and not only clever illustrations, but free from that constant repetition so often seen in home journals. While a striking picture takes the eye at once, it will not do so always, and it is here the American excels in retaining the attention of his victim. He changes his style and shape of advertisement frequently, the illustrations especially, sometimes with every issue, and must find it pay, else why does he do it? In the batch of American journals shown to-night there is contained in each number an advertisement for suspensory bandages, and each issue with a fresh arrangement of literary matter, and a fresh woodcut. Of course, some firms keep to the same stereotyped forms interminably, but not the majority.

Another type is what I would call the "high moral" type. The reader is seriously requested to pause and consider the consequence to his business and morals should he sell many of the makes of Bunyan's plaster, since, as per subjoined table of comparisons, they are utterly worthless beside the preacher's articles. Scott's Emulsion favours this style; they point out the moral harm that may happen to a druggist by selling a ready-made emulsion, of which he may not have absolute knowledge, "for a standard article of known merit, where the manufacturer alone is responsible for the consequences." This is rather rich if we remember what the same firm say to the public about the capabilities of the druggist to make an emulsion, as some of us may recollect reading.

The field covered by the articles offered for sale gives rather a queer idea of the sundries department of our Yankee cousins. It embraces soda-water fountains, of course, most expensively and elaborately advertised; proprietary articles of all kinds and for all purposes; syringes, especially enemas, seem to be in great demand to judge from the number of competing makers; chocolate-creams; Columbian spirits (the equal of alcohol for all purposes except for internal use); bicycles; cigars; wall-papers; plate-glass; everything is here. One issue of *The Druggists' Circular* has six whisky advertisements. Here is a sample—not of the whisky, the other—"Clark's Pure Rye. For the convenience of the retail drug-trade we also put up this whisky in bottles handsomely labelled and wrapped, making them attractive and reliable shelf-goods, in 10-oz. flat flints, 2 dozen in case, per dozen £4. This popular brand has been successfully introduced into every state in the Union, and is now carried by leading druggists." Presents are frequently offered. "How does this catch you? Send your jobber an order for 5 boxes Cream Fruit or Banta's Pepsine Chewing-gum, and we will send you direct a handsome Gloria silk, 8-steel-rib umbrella, either silver or wood handle, one that you will be proud to carry." "A good timekeeper 31 inches length, 12 inches dial, 8-day clock, with 1 gross order for Monell's Teething Cordial."

Situations vacant are very few. They do not appear to advertise for their "drug-clerks," as they call them. Here is one: "I want to correspond with a live brainly young man who desires a clerkship in a drug-store in Southern New York State."

From the same portion of the paper comes the following:—

FOR SALE.—Drug-store in a Pennsylvania village, 60 miles from Baltimore; established fifty years; sound as a Government bond. Address "Dermal," Twenty-first and G streets, Washington, D. C.—8

FOR SALE.—One of the best-paying drug-stores in Indiana, situated in a county seat. Indiana has no

pharmacy law. Good reasons for selling. Address "Konseals," care this office.—9

FOR SALE.—One pair of alligators, about 14 inches long; have been used for window display. Address J. T. Fogas, Owensville, Ind.—9

WILL EXCHANGE a farm of 174 acres, near Independence, Montgomery Co., Kas., fair improvements; worth \$4,000; willing to make a sacrifice to exchange for a drug-store. Address J. B. Hughes, Trinidad, Col.—7

POSITION WANTED by first-class drug and soda clerk; can dispense all the fancy drinks; good salesman; best of city and country experience; good references; would travel for a reliable house. Address "Z. S. H." Drawer 28, Naples, N.Y.—12

All of which are peculiarly American. Although foreign to this article, I cannot refrain from reproducing the following description of a new drug-store. We are not in the same boat with Mr. Beckley at all:—

Mr. E. H. Beckley, Elkhart, Indiana, . . . regarded as one of the finest stores in Northern Indiana. Regardless of the business practice of other druggists in the same town, he does not sell liquors in less than quarts, keeps open on Sundays only four hours, and does a strictly cash business. The main room is 60 feet long, the ladies' and smoking rooms in the rear take up the remaining 17 feet. . . . A telephone is located in the ladies' room, also a wall-case containing ladies' and rubber goods, lotions, &c. These together with toilet accommodations and chairs, complete the furnishings of this department, thus providing a place where parties can make their purchases without being annoyed by intruders, as, when the curtain is drawn, perfect privacy is afforded. . . . The smoking-room has a fine netting in the ceiling to let out the smoke, while a lounge and easy chairs add to the comfort of the smokers. Next to the liquor-case is a dumb waiter and a speaking-tube to the cellar. A phonograph is at the disposal of customers.

This is from the *Pharmaceutical Record*, 1892 volume, and not fiction.

To come back to the original subject, our home advertisements are preferable to the American, though some of the ideas enumerated might be a welcome addition to the present styles. Still we at home can congratulate ourselves on a class of advertisers who deal but little in such india-rubber commodities as the American, and who prefers to deal less in proprietary articles and more in drugs and drug-sundries.

A DISCUSSION

followed the reading of the paper, in which

Mr. DUNLOP remarked that, like Mr. McKellar, he thought the insertion of advertisements amongst the literary matter of the journal detracted somewhat from **THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST** as a handbook. The journal was a good journal; but if it was to be preserved in a permanent form its literary matter should not be mixed up with advertisements.

Mr. LAING did not think they should object to little items of general information appearing in the body of the journals. They were not real advertisements. It was the way the journals had of doing their duty to their advertisers, and was interesting reading. In regard to preserving back numbers, for all practical purposes all they would like to preserve were the formulae. Speaking of the American pharmacists, Mr. Laing said the people in America were much more go-ahead than the folk in this country, and probably they were much more intelligent—(laughter)—and they had far more original ideas than we had. When we saw anybody advertising with original ideas in our country we immediately took a dislike to him, and it took a considerable time before we could counteract that. Mr. McKellar's paper was very nice, and if **THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST** was awake to its opportunities, as it always was, it would take profit by what Mr. McKellar had said, and eliminate little things that detracted from it.

Mr. J. ANDERSON RUSSELL said it was not worth while for a chemist to bind any of the trade journals—he had never gone to the trouble of doing that. As regards advertisements, if he wanted to refer to any particular thing in the advertising columns, he referred to the index of advertisers, and got what he wanted at once; he would never dream of going through the pages of advertisements. It was very true what Mr. McKellar had said about the success of a trade journal depending to a large extent upon the degree of interest which it could create amongst its readers. But, on the other hand, they had to consider their advertisers' interests, and he had good authority for making the state-

ment that it was the advertisements that paid, and the end in view of their trade journals was to make them pay—perhaps with the exception of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*. (Laughter.) With regard to the "Town Traveller's" peregrinations, he thought the influence of the advertisers was too plainly shown.

Mr. DAVID WATSON was certain that many good pharmaceutical houses, who put out the best preparations, were forced to advertise because of the competition in the trade. They had to keep pace with others in the same line of business, otherwise they would to a great extent be obliterated. Advertising nowadays was almost reduced to a fine art. He had found it very convenient to have his journals bound for reference. (Hear, hear.) THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST he regarded as the pioneer in pharmaceutical advertising, and, on the other hand, it was always trying to keep pace with the times in the matter of its literary contents. He could, therefore, quite understand the difficulty it would have in pleasing everybody. Mr. Watson thought it would be a long time before the American style of advertising was adopted in Britain, because at the present time the business was sufficiently hampered by the heterogeneous stores one had to stock, without adding bicycles, soda-water fountains, &c.

Mr. W. L. CURRIE, who presided, concurred with Mr. McKellar as to the extreme unlikelihood of a busy chemist writing to London or anywhere else about goods the terms for which were not plainly stated in the advertisements. In regard to a certain class of advertisements he mentioned that on one occasion he had to send to a chemist in England, who styled himself "A.P.S." for a specific article. The parcel came down in a large bundle of advertisements, and he had the curiosity to open the parcel before sending it out to his customer, and from what he found he was very glad he did so, and he took care that his customer did not receive the bundle. It had been a serious question with him whether he should not submit this printed matter to the Pharmaceutical Council in London, to see if it were not possible to have such a man expelled from the Society. THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST had been very much in evidence in the course of the discussion. He could only say this—that in spite of all the benefit he had derived from the *Pharmaceutical Journal* he had derived a great deal more benefit from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. He did not mind saying that at all. And he did not know whether it was against THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, but it must be up-to-date nowadays. He did not mind that THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST devoted one or two columns to "Our Town Traveller." Personally he rather enjoyed reading the descriptions of various articles which were intended to be put on the trade; for if they meant to carry on a commercial business as well as a professional business they must keep their eyes open for what was going on both sides. He did object, however, to advertisements appearing in the body of the journal, and sometimes THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST was to blame in this respect. He had bound every copy of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST since he began to take it out, twenty years ago, and he had very frequently to refer to it with advantage. He had not bound the copies of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* for the corresponding number of years. Both THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST and the *Journal* were well worth binding.

A vote of thanks was awarded Mr. McKellar for his interesting paper.

CANVASSING SCOTTISH M.P.'S FOR THE PHARMACY BILL.

At the same meeting the PRESIDENT (Mr. W. L. Currie) reported that, in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting, a letter had been sent to all the members of Parliament representing constituencies in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, urging them to support the Pharmacy Bill. A good many replies had been received, and only one of these was unfavourable; but he declined to mention who had sent this one.

ABERDEEN AND NORTH OF SCOTLAND SOCIETY OF CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

A MEETING of this Society was held on March 2, Mr. John Johnston (President) in the chair. The HON. SECRETARY presented the annual report, which stated that during the

past year not only had there been a large increase in the membership, but there was also greater interest taken in the Society's work, an increased attendance at the meetings—so much so that a number of special meetings had to be provided. The Society's School of Pharmacy was doing good work. The attendance at the classes had been regular, and the conduct of the students exemplary. The laboratory and museum were in good order, and the number of students attending for private study was greatly in excess of any previous year. Mr. JAMES PATERSON (Hon. Treasurer) reported a satisfactory credit balance. The Society then discussed and adopted the new constitution and standing orders drawn up by a committee appointed for that purpose, and the title of the Society will now be "The Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association." Mr. JOHNSTON and Mr. J. CRUICKSHANK intimated that they had written respectively to Mr. Bryce, M.P., and Captain Pirie, M.P., asking them to attend and vote for the new Pharmacy Bill, and had received favourable replies from both. The officers were then elected for the current year as follows:—Mr. James Clark, Ph.C., President; Mr. Charles Simpson, Vice-President; Mr. James Paterson, Treasurer; Mr. John Cruickshank, Secretary; and Mr. Robt. Urquhart, Librarian. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Johnston for his zeal in the Society's welfare during his nine years' presidency.

ABERDEEN JUNIOR CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Aberdeen Junior Chemists' Association was held on March 4, Mr. R. Leslie, Ph.C. (Hon. President), in the chair. The results of the dispensing and essay competitions were given, the winner in both competitions being Mr. P. D. Milne. The reports of the Secretary (Mr. F. Milne) and the Treasurer (Mr. P. Tanendale) showed the Association to be in a prosperous condition. The following officers were elected:—Mr. R. Leslie, Ph.C., Hon. President; Mr. Charles Forbes, Hon. Vice-President; Mr. A. P. Wallace, President; Mr. W. K. Watt, Vice-President; Mr. F. Milne, Secretary; Mr. McMillan, Assistant Secretary; Mr. M. May, Treasurer. Those gentlemen, with Messrs. Barnett, Henderson, Scorgie, and Sleigh, form the committee. Mr. Leslie was thanked for presiding.

PLYMOUTH, DEVONPORT, STONEHOUSE, AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

An interesting lecture was given to the Junior Section of the above Association on March 2 by Dr. W. CHEYNE WILSON on "Some of our Microscopic Foes." The lecture was illustrated by lantern representations of micro-photographs of disease-germs.

POOR-LAW DISPENSERS.

THIS paper was read at a meeting of the Sheffield Pharmaceutical Society held on March 9 (Mr. G. Squire, President, in the chair) by Mr. H. AUTCLIFFE, dispenser to the Sheffield Union.

Mr. Autcliffe first referred to the appointment and status of Poor-law dispensers as defined by an order of the Local Government Board issued in 1871, and urged that the time had come when all provincial towns should be placed on the same footing and the dispensers have the same rights and privileges as the Unions and dispensers in London. At present the London dispensers are permanent officials under the Local Government Board, and can only be dismissed with their sanction. The provincial dispensers, most of them having the same qualification as those in London, had to have their appointment and salary sanctioned only by the Local Government Board. This was a matter which all chemists should take up, and see that the dispenser took his stand as a trained intermedium between the doctor and the patient. At present even the workhouse porter could afford to look down upon the semi-professional chemist, as his position was a permanent one. The Pharmaceutical Society and local societies should do their utmost with the London Board to secure for the chemist the same standing and privileges as were extended to nearly every other officer under the Guardians. Their late Clerk was of opinion that until the Pharmaceutical Society brought pressure to bear on

the Local Government Board they would not act; but Sir Walter Foster, when at that Department, informed Mr. Ellinor that if any provincial Union wished their dispenser to be placed under orders the Board would consider the matter. At present there was nothing to prevent Guardians from appointing unqualified persons as dispensers, and to his knowledge that course had been taken. The lecturer devoted considerable attention to the position and training of the army compounder, and urged that he was not thereby properly qualified to fill the position of poor-law dispenser. He advised provincial chemists to seek seats on their respective Boards of Guardians, and insist on the Government recognising all dispensaries, seeing that all dispensing is done by properly qualified persons, and that dispensaries are established in all large Unions. If the public knew they would insist on the suffering poor receiving attention as efficient as that bestowed on the sailor, the idiot, or the convict. There should be no watering-down of the qualifications of Poor-law dispensers by admitting army compounders, who professionally had no standing, as dispensers of medicines, a system which called for the strongest protests of the Pharmaceutical Society, local societies, and all humane Poor-law Guardians.

After the CHAIRMAN had thanked Mr. Autcliffe for his lecture,

Mr. ELLINOR made some remarks. He agreed with the lecturer that it was objectionable that army dispensers should be legalised for compounding, and said it was outrageous that the Local Government Board should have violated an Act of Parliament passed for the protection of the people. If the Pharmaceutical Council had done what they ought to have done this position of affairs would never have arisen, but nowadays one only expected from the Pharmaceutical Council that they should sit still and growl. (Laughter.) They had become so deluded as to allow themselves to be overridden with calumny and nonsense that they appeared to be losing all interest in pharmaceutical matters.

Mr. J. AUSTEN thought the remedy lay with the Boards of Guardians.

Mr. G. T. NEWSHOLME said the Pharmaceutical Council had done all they could in this matter. They had appointed a deputation to wait on the permanent officials when Sir Walter Foster brought his proposal forward, but found the influence behind the department too strong for them. The Government had determined to do all they could to find positions for the large number of army men who were turned loose by the short-service system.

Mr. AUTCLIFFE briefly replied.

DEWSBURY AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of chemists was held on March 7 at Dewsbury, for the purpose of forming an association for the district. Mr. A. FOSTER (Dewsbury) was elected Chairman, and explained why the meeting had been called, and trusted that it would be the means of creating a good feeling amongst the chemists of the district, and that they would be able to meet one another oftener than they had done.

The following officers were elected:—President: Mr. A. Foster (Dewsbury). Vice-Presidents: Mr. C. Crooke (Mifield), Mr. G. Walker (Dewsbury). Treasurer: Mr. W. Stead (Heckmondwike). Secretary: Mr. R. Gledhill (Dewsbury). Members of Council: Mr. T. Kerr (Ravensthorpe), Mr. W. Pickles (Batley Carr), Mr. W. L. Fewster (West Town), Mr. T. W. Cussons (Ossett), Mr. C. G. Gloyne (Dewsbury), Mr. J. Day (Savile Town), Mr. G. N. Gutteridge (Dewsbury), Mr. R. Butler (Dewsbury).

A discussion afterwards took place on the Pharmacy Act Amendments Bill, and a petition in favour of the Bill was sent to the borough member.

The meeting then adjourned until April 4.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE monthly meeting of this Association was held on March 9, at 8 p.m. Mr. T. Maltby Clague occupied the chair. The usual routine business having been disposed

of, and some new members elected, Mr. GEO. F. MIERSON opened a discussion on

APPRENTICES: THEIR DUTIES AND OURS.

and said that the conclusion he had come to after some years' experience as a teacher of pharmacy was that the present system of apprenticeship in pharmacy was a failure. The examination-results show that there is a flaw somewhere. Examination was the best test of knowledge we can hope to see, but he thought the conditions under which it was conducted could be improved. From his own knowledge he knew of cases where the different methods adopted by an ex-professor of chemistry and a pharmacist-examiner caused failure to a man who was really well up in his subject. His remarks applied to both practical and theoretical chemistry. On the other hand students were oftentimes to blame, and sometimes did not go in for the examination in earnest, going in just to see "what it was like." It was an expensive experiment, as a man was never the same after once failing. He would like, however, to say that teachers of pharmacy were not to blame for much of this—it was the master of an apprentice, who, undertaking to teach a youth the art of pharmacy, neglected to do so. The master failed to mould the future Galen as he should do. When a lad got over the glamour of the coloured bottles he began to realise that he was there as a source of cheap labour. He was often left to pick up a smattering of knowledge in the best way he could, and thus was ill prepared for the examination ahead of him. His (the lecturer's) experience was that men who had received a practical training during apprenticeship found no difficulty whatever in passing the examinations. No school of pharmacy can compensate for opportunities wasted during this period. There were, of course, some lads idly disposed, but even they should have been taught how to make a pill and tincture properly. He came across young men without the faintest idea of what an infusion-pot or percolator was like. In conclusion, the lecturer said no man had a right to take an apprentice unless he was prepared to teach him properly, and spend much time and thought on training him well, and so enable the lad to become fairly proficient in his work. This was the whole crux of the large percentage of failures in the Minor examination.

Mr. Merson was cordially thanked for his paper, and the discussion which took place was joined in by Messrs. GILDERDALE, G. DUNCAN, KERR, JONES, BUCKLEY, GRAHAM, F. R. DUDDERIDGE, KERSE, and the PRESIDENT.

The meeting then went into committee to consider details connected with the proposed testimonial to Mr. Barnard S. Proctor, F.I.C. The SECRETARY and Mr. KERSE (Treasurer) both reported a gratifying response to their circular.

BRADFORD AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

ON March 8 Mr. R. W. SILSON (a member of the Association) delivered a lecture, entitled "The Pink Party in Switzerland," before the members of the Association and their friends at the Great Northern Hotel. Mr. Dunn (President) occupied the chair, and there was a crowded attendance. The lecture was illustrated by over sixty slides, taken by the lecturer whilst on a tour with the "Pink Party," and included mountain and lake scenery and buildings of interest in Lucerne, Brussels, Antwerp, &c. Most of the views were works of high art, and won much applause. Mr. A. H. WADDINGTON thanked Mr. Silson for his entertaining lecture; and Messrs. RIMMINGTON, DUNN, BRINSON, and PICKARD supported the vote of thanks. A social meeting followed the lecture.

MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

ON March 9 Mr. G. S. Woolley presided at a meeting of the above Society, and presented the prizes to the successful competitors at the recent examinations.

Mr. GRIER then read a paper on

THE MELTING-POINT OF SOFT PARAFFIN,

illustrating his paper with experiments. He said some time ago, in taking melting-points of samples of soft paraffin, he

found the ordinary capillary-tube method was not much use, as the transition from the natural semi-solid to the liquefied condition is ill-defined and difficult to detect. Mr. Grier showed the method he employed by means of a bulb filled with the soft paraffin it was desired to test. He compared the results arrived at by the bulb and capillary-tube methods. Mr. Grier also gave a paper on

THE DETECTION OF WATER IN ETHER,

which was accompanied by an elaborate series of calculations and tables.

The CHAIRMAN, MR. KIRKBY, MR. HOSEASON, MR. DUNCAN, and others spoke on the subjects.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Grier on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. KIRKBY.

Chemists on the L.C.C.

OUT of the 118 members of the London County Council, all but two of whom were elected last week, we can reckon on a good half-dozen who are more or less directly associated with the drug-trade. First should be mentioned the two members who have been pillars of the Council since its birth—Mr. Idris on the Progressive side, and Colonel Probyn among the Moderates. These two Welshmen know all about the working of the Council, and have held important positions in it. Mr. Idris, who headed the poll in North St. Pancras, is the chief of the great mineral-water company which bears his name. He is also a chemist and druggist, and his days



MR. T. H. W. IDRIS.

of retail pharmacy are not so distant that he can have lost his interest in them even if he were not in constant contact with pharmacists as customers. At the first L.C.C. election in 1889 Mr. Idris (then Mr. Williams) scored 1,536 votes; in 1892 his poll reached 2,010; on both of these occasions he headed the poll. In 1895, when "Progress" went into mourning, he was second to his "Moderate" opponent, and his poll dropped to 1,788; but this year he is evidently in high favour again, for he increases his poll to 2,334, and brings in another Progressive member with him, notwithstanding that the seats were fought for by six candidates, the largest number in any of the divisions.

Colonel Probyn, the proprietor of the business of Hooper & Co., Pall Mall and Grosvenor Street, is a Moderate, and has represented the Strand Division during the life of the Council. He left the School Board to go on to the Council. In 1889 the Colonel (who holds a commission in the Queen's Westminster Volunteers, and has the long-service decoration) came in with 1,407 votes to his credit, and was second to Sir Augustus Harris. In 1892 he was at the top of the poll with

2,618 votes; in 1895 he touched high-water mark with 2,733. This year thirty-six of his supporters have dropped off, though he still heads the list with 2,697 votes. He and his



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PROBYN.

colleague, Mr. Emden, had two "Progressives" and an "Independent" to hamper their triumph, but they made mincemeat of all of them. The City Corporation are to make the Colonel Sheriff, which means that he may be Lord Mayor some day.

Mr. R. A. Robinson, another well-known chemist, proprietor of the business run in the name of Malden & Co. in the Brompton Road, was returned to the L.C.C. as a "Moderate" unopposed at a by-election a year ago. That he was the right man for South Kensington is proved now by the contest at the late election, when Mr. Robinson was sup



MR. R. A. ROBINSON.

ported by 3,056 votes, while his nearest Progressive rival could only muster 648. The Progressives did not ask for a recount in South Kensington. Mr. Robinson has taken an active part in South Kensington local politics, and has at times figured prominently on the pharmaceutical stage.

Mr. C. Goddard Clarke, who now represents Peckham, is a partner in the firm of Potter & Clarke, wholesale druggists and herbalists. Mr. Clarke enters the Spring Gardens Parliament for the first time, but he has 3,201 constituents behind him, and is evidently a favourite at Peckham, for he came in at the top of the poll 350 votes better than his Progressive colleague, and five and six hundred above the "Moderate" competitors who ventured to try conclusions with him. Mr. Clarke has been a partner in his present

business since 1873, and takes a particularly active part in vestry and religious work on the south of the Thames. He is also a J.P. and a Freemason. Mr. Clarke obtained a



MR. C. GODDARD CLARKE.

world-wide reputation for going to the point when he acted as a jurymen on the celebrated baccarat case in 1890. The incident is thus related in a recently-published book on the Prince of Wales :—

As the Prince was leaving the witness-box an amusing incident occurred. A jurymen rose from the back of the jury-box and with *naïf* frankness put two important questions—Whether the Prince had ever seen Sir William Gordon-Cumming cheating, and whether he believed him to be guilty. In reply to the first question, the Prince answered that the banker would not be in a position to see foul play, and that among friends it would not be expected; and to the second he replied that Sir William's accusers being so numerous he could not but believe them. Having elicited these very important facts, the little jurymen sat down, and the Prince stepped out of the box with a smile and a bow.

An interesting new member of the Council is Mr. Bertram S. Straus, who won a Progressive victory at Mile End. As an



MR. BERTRAM S. STRAUS.

active partner in the well-known house of Hale & Son, the drug-brokers, Mr. Straus is a familiar figure to frequenters of the Mincing Lane markets. He has the advantage of youth,

confidence, strong opinions, and plenty of ability to express them on his side. His politics are not perhaps those of the commercial sale-rooms generally, but convictions are never allowed to interfere with business in those regions. Mr. Straus's father was a Manchester merchant and a friend of John Bright. The new L.C.C. has already fought for a seat in Parliament, and is not the man to be discouraged by a single defeat.

Mr. William Pearce, who was elected at the top of the poll for Limehouse as a Progressive, is not new to the Council, as



MR. W.M. PEARCE.

he has been a member of it since 1892. He is the head of the firm of William Pearce & Sons, of Bow Common Road, makers of acid and sublimers of sulphur.

Mr. J. McDougall, who sits for Poplar, also as a Progres-



MR. J. McDougall.

sive, was at one time a manufacturer of disinfectants, but has, we believe, retired from business.

We do not know of any chemist or gentleman connected with the drug-trade who was a rejected candidate at the L.C.C. election.

MR. JULIUS LEVY, of Sydney, whose trip to Europe we mentioned some time ago, has now arrived in London. Mr. Levy is here on a purely pleasure trip.

PROFESSOR WALLER, at a meeting of the Society of Anæsthetists, stigmatised the open method of administering chloroform as the "slapdash method."

ABOUT KAURI.

MARK TWAIN is our authority for this. He says, in "More Tramps Abroad":—"It is from Auckland that the kauri-gum is shipped. For a long time now about 8,000 tons have been brought into the town per year. It is worth about \$300 per ton, unassorted; assorted, the finest grades

and there are whites too, "mostly social wreckage from Europe," wrote one who is taken more seriously than Mark Twain, but many gold-miners, temporarily in difficulties, are glad to dig for these low-water diamonds. Some kauri-buyers in London will have it that whenever there is a gold "boom" the price of kauri-gum advances through lack of diggers. We mention that opinion for what it is worth, but it is certain that for a long time the market-price of kauri has been tending upwards.

These potential millionaires are represented in our illustrations. They start out with a steel rod—all the shooting-irons they can afford.

The kauri insists upon being hunted for. It lies low, and does everything in its power to elude the white man's grasp. The Maori smells it. Mark Twain does not say so, but would have done had he thought of it. With the steel rod the millionaire probes along, and when he strikes the quarry he unearths it with prosaic pick and shovel. The shooting-iron is shown lying on the shovel in the foreground of the second picture, which shows how the kauri is prepared for the market. When they get tired of digging the men sit down and scrape *débris* off the resin with a knife. It is hard work; so when they have as much as they can carry they take it into the nearest town and drink it. About five hundred million

pounds of kauri-gum have, from first to last, been spread over the world as varnish and linoleum, and considerably less has gone to clothe the female form divine in the guise of silk. At present there is more than a million pounds lying in the port of London, which represents about a year's



DIGGING KAURI.

are worth about \$1,000. It goes to America chiefly. It is in lumps, and is hard and smooth, and looks like amber; the light coloured like new amber, and the dark brown like rich old amber. And it has the pleasant feel of amber too. Some of the light-coloured samples were a tolerably fair counterfeit of uncut South African diamonds, they were so perfectly smooth, polished, and transparent. It is manufactured into varnish—a varnish which answers for copal varnish, and is cheaper. The gum is dug up out of the ground; it has been there for ages. It is the sap of the kauri-tree. Dr. Campbell, of Auckland, told me that he sent a cargo of it to England fifty years ago, but nothing came of the venture. Nobody knew what to do with it; so it was given away at 5*l.* per ton to light fires with."

Some people have difficulty in telling when Mark Twain is serious. He is nearly ninety-nine parts funny, and one part solemnity. It generally happens that the odd part strikes the thing of which the reader knows about as much as the genial humourist, and the first and last thought is, "how near the truth he gets." Then he begins to wonder if Mark Twain is funny at all. It is the fact that half a century ago the first consignments of kauri found no market, and it is said that for several years the article was not worth the warehouse-rent in London, and came from New Zealand as ballast. The kauri-fields are situated in the northern part of New Zealand, and are partly owned by Maoris and partly by the New Zealand Government.

The primeval *Dammara australis* dropped the resin centuries ago, and the accumulations of ages lie several feet beneath the surface. The descendants of the ancient dammaras still yield resin, but it is useless for varnish-making, because it takes too long to harden—say, a few decades. Some 2,000 Maoris are engaged in kauri-digging,



SCRAPING KAURI.

consumption in this country. The United States buys more; in fact, the output is what Mark Twain says. Kauri is also known under the names kowrie and cowdi. The latter is the original and, seemingly, correct name. There is another word which sounds similar—we mean the shell which passes in many places as current coin. This cowrie loves to bask under the shade of the mighty tree; but that usually happens in Central Africa, where sable beauties wear a string or two of Cowrie shells—and little else. This has no connection with kauri.

New Companies and Company News.

RUSSIAN-AMERICAN OIL COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 100*l.* shares. Objects: To trade in Russian and American oils. Registered without articles of association.

EUREKA FLUID FOODS SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To manufacture, sell, and deal in extracts of meat and fluid foods. Registered without articles of association.

E. T. EWEN & SON (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of plaster manufacturers, surgical-appliance makers, chemists, druggists and warehousemen. The first directors are, George E. Ewen and Henry Bridge. Qualification, 100*l.* Remuneration, 30*l.* each per annum.

GEORGE LYONS & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 3,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of a cycle and surgical-instrument maker carried on by George Lyons at 56 and 58 East Street, Marylebone, London, W. The first directors are George Lyons (managing director with 270*l.* per annum), O. Klug, and E. Eshelby. Remuneration, 30*l.* each per annum.

YEATMAN & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 200,000*l.*, in 20,000 preference shares of 5*l.* each and 100,000 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each. Objects: To acquire the business of Yeatman & Co. (Limited), and to manufacture, sell and deal in yeast-powder, jams, sauces, soups, jellies, food stuffs, provisions, confectionery, perfumery, essences, and all articles dealt in by grocers, Italian warehousemen, chemists, druggists, and drysalters.

HAYDEN CURE FOR INTEMPERANCE SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire James Hayden's rights in a certain secret system for the cure of dipsomania and the excessive use of morphia and other drugs, to establish an institution for receiving patients and administering such treatment, and to carry on the business of chemists and druggists. Director's qualification, 100*l.* Remuneration, as the company may decide.

THE MAYPOLE COMPANY (LIMITED).—The directors recommend the payment of a 7-per-cent. dividend on the preference shares and of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, after writing off the preliminary expenses, amounting to 1,383*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* This will leave the sum of 721*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* to be carried forward. This is the result of the first year's trading of the company. At the meeting of shareholders, held today (Thursday), Mr. Holt-Beevor presiding, details were given of the flourishing condition of the company, agencies having now been established all over the world. Mr. A. H. Deakin, managing-director, read extracts of reports from agents in Russia, America, Australia, New Zealand, Stockholm, Argentine, Montreal, Valparaiso, &c., all showing that Maypole soap was selling well. The directors propose to form a subsidiary American company, with an adequate working-capital, all ordinary shares of which will be taken up by the English company. The recommendations of the directors were unanimously agreed to, and Messrs. Mellors, Basden & Co. were re-elected auditors.

SANITAS COMPANY (LIMITED).—In our report of this company's annual meeting on page 364, February 26, the dividend and bonus on shares 50,001 to 60,000 was stated to be $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., it should have been 1*s.* 2*d.* per share.

New Books.

Bailey, L. H. *Lessons with Plants: Suggestions for Seeing and Interpreting some of the Common Forms of Vegetation.* Illus. from Nature by W. S. Holdsworth. 7*½* x 5*½*. Pp. 524. 7*s.* 6*d.* (Macmillan.)

Bolas, T. *Glass Blowing and Working for Amateurs, Experimentalists, and Technicians.* Based upon a course of lecture-demonstrations given under the auspices of the Technical Educa-

tion Committee of the Middlesex County Council. Illus., coloured front. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 212. 2*s.* net. (Dawbarn.)

Briggs, W. *General Elementary Science.* 7*½* x 4*½*. Pp. 408. 3*s.* 6*d.* (Univ. Tut. Series.) (Clive.)

Chavasse, P. H. *Advice to a Wife on the Management of her own Health.* Rev. by Fancourt Barnes. 14th ed. 6*½* x 4*½*. Pp. 314. 2*s.* 6*d.* (Churchill.)

Chemical Manufacturer's Directory of England, Wales, and Scotland, with some of the Firms in Ireland. 30th ed. enl. 8*½* x 5*½*. Pp. 116. 2*s.* 6*d.* net. (Simpkin.)

Clinical Society of London—General Index to Vols. 1-30 of Transactions. 12*s.* (Clinical Society.)

Cousins, H. H. *Chemistry of the Garden: Primer for Amateurs and Young Gardeners.* 6 x 3*½*. Pp. 158. 1*s.* (Macmillan.)

Crookshank, E. M. *A Text-book of Bacteriology, including the Etiology and Prevention of Infective Diseases, and an Account of Yeasts and Moulds, Hematozoa and Psorospermis.* Illus. with Chrd. Plates. 8vo. (Philadelphia) London. 32*s.*

Fox, G. H. *Skin-diseases of Children.* With 12 photogravure and chromographic plates and 60 Illus. in text. 8vo. 12*s.* 6*d.* (Churchill.)

Frankland, P., and Mrs. P. *Pasteur.* Cr. 8vo. Pp. 224. 3*s.* 6*d.* (Century Science Series.) (Cassell.)

Freyberger, L. *The Pocket Formulary for the Treatment of Disease in Children.* 12mo. Pp. 226. Leather, 6*s.* 6*d.* net. (Rebman.)

Greer, J. H. *A Physician in the House for Family and Individual Consultation.* Portrait and Clra. Plates. 8vo. (Chicago) London. 14*s.*

Hall, F. de H. *Medical Examination for Life Assurance: Remarks on the Selection of an Office.* 7*½* x 4*½*. Pp. 72. 2*s.* 6*d.* net. (Simpkin.)

Hemmeter, J. C. *Diseases of the Stomach: the Special Pathology, &c.* In 3 parts. 8vo. 30*s.* net. (Hirschfeld.)

Herman, G. E. *Diseases of Women: Clinical Guide to their Diagnosis and Treatment.* 252 Illus. 8vo. Pp. 902. 25*s.* (Cassell.)

Jurney, H. G. *Polyneuritis in Relation to Gestation and the Puerperium.* 8vo. 1*s.* (Churchill.)

Larmor, J. *A Dynamical Theory of the Electric and Luminescent Medium.* Part III. Relations with *Materia Medica.* Phil. Trans. A. Vol. 180. 1897. Pp. 205-300. 3*s.* 6*d.* (Dulau.)

Lewkowitsch, J. *Chemical Analysis of Oils, Fats, Waxes and of the Commercial Products derived therefrom.* 8vo. 25*s.* net. (Macmillan.)

Macdonald, J. W. *Clinical Text-book of Surgical Diagnosis and Treatment for Practitioners, &c.* Roy. 8vo. 28*s.* (Rebman.)

Mackenzie, J. A. S. *On Maternal Syphilis, including Presence and Recognition of Syphilitic Pelvic Disease in Women.* 8vo. 10*s.* 6*d.* (Churchill.)

Mitchell, S. W. *Fat and Blood: An Essay on the Treatment of certain Forms of Neurasthenia and Hysteria.* 7th ed. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 178. 5*s.* (Lippincott.)

Newsholme, A. *Epidemic Diphtheria: a Research on the Origin and Spread of the Disease from an International Stand-point.* 8*½* x 5*½*. Pp. 200. 7*s.* 6*d.* net. (Sommenschein.)

Oils, Fats, Waxes, and Commercial Products derived therefrom, Chemical Analysis of. Founded on Benidikt's 2nd ed. of "Analyse der Fette," by Dr. J. Lewkowitsch. 2nd enl. ed. Roy. 8vo. 9*½* x 6*½*. Pp. 856. 25*s.* net. (Macmillan.)

Ormerod, Eleanor A. *Report of Observations of Injurious Insects and Common Farm Pests during the Year 1897, with methods of Prevention and Remedy.* 21st Report. 9*½* x 6*½*. Pp. 168. Sewed, 1*s.* 6*d.* (Simpkin.)

Phelps, C. *Traumatic Injuries of the Brain and its Membranes.* 21*s.* net. (Hirschfeld.)

St. Thomas's Hospital Reports. Ed. by Dr. H. Mackenzie and Mr. G. H. Makins. Vol. xxv. New Series. 8vo. 8*s.* 6*d.* (Churchill.)

Science (General Elementary). Ed. by W. Briggs. Diagrams. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 408. 3*s.* 6*d.* (Univ. Tut. Series.) (Clive.)

Shaw Mackenzie, J. A. *On Maternal Syphilis.* With coloured plates and wood engravings. 8vo. 10*s.* 6*d.* (Churchill.)

Sloane, T. O'Connor. *The Standard Electrical Dictionary: a Popular Encyclopedia of Words and Terms used in the Practice of Electrical Engineering.* 2nd ed. with Appendix to date. 7*½* x 5*½*. Pp. 682. 7*s.* 6*d.* (Lockwood.)

Novelties.

OREXIN CHOCOLATES.

MESSRS. A. & M. ZIMMERMANN, 9 and 10 St. Mary-at-Hill, E.C., have brought out some orexin-chocolate tablets and pills. The former, containing a dose of orexin, we find very pleasant, and without any taste but that of chocolate. The pills are well made and silvered, and the mass being fairly soft they will doubtless disintegrate quickly on reaching the stomach. The insolubility and bitter taste of orexin have hitherto militated against its extended use in cases requiring a stomachic digestive.

VALIDOL.

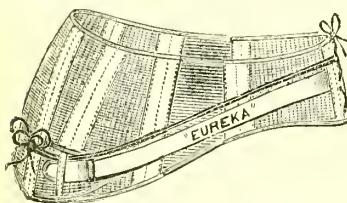
MESSRS. WIDENMANN, BROICHER & CO., 33 Lime Street, E.C., send us a sample of the new anaesthetic and anti-hysteric called validol, which was recently described in this journal. It is made by Zimmer & Co., Frankfurt, and is a combination of menthol and valerianic acid. It is a water-white liquid of pleasant odour, and topically it appears to be far more effectual than menthol alone, while it has properties which fit it admirably for internal administration in hysteria and for inhalation in certain bronchial affections. Those who wish to know all about it, so that they may talk of it to medical men, should get a copy of Dr. Schwerzenski's paper from the above-mentioned firm.

A NEW ABDOMINAL BELT.

MR. VINCENT WOOD, Victoria House, Albion Place, Blackfriars Bridge, has submitted to us samples of "The Colonial Belt," for ladies' and gentlemen's wear. They are remarkably light belts, and, being made of a cloth composed of a mixture of horsehair and bleached manilla, are, though of light weight, as strong as the heavier canvas usually employed. It is claimed that the support given by these belts is equal to the heavier kind, which, from our examination, we can quite believe. The prices of the belt, made in various styles, range: for ladies', 36s. per dozen; for gentlemen's, 27s. per dozen. The "Colonial Brighton Belt,"

at 72s. per dozen, for ladies, is of specially good appearance, and is made on scientific principles. Mr. Vincent Wood makes all the materials and fittings with his own machinery, and has

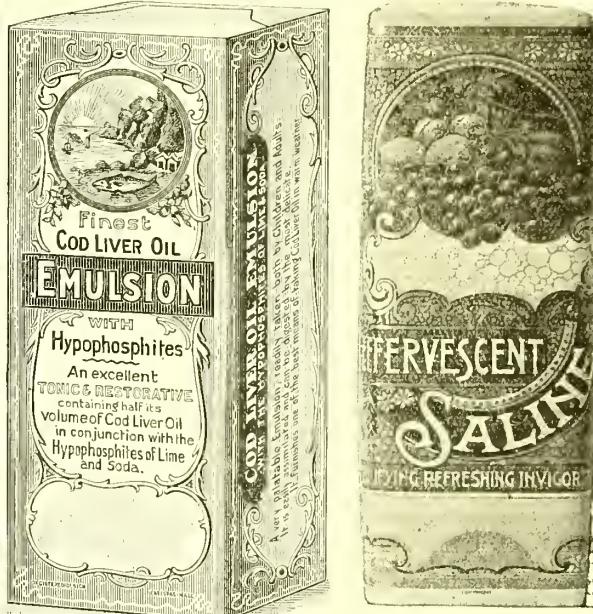
succeeded in turning out a good article at a moderate price. The above illustration fairly represents the gauze-like meshes of the new material.



"ALLENBURYS" SPECIALITIES.

THE illustrated price-list of chemists' specialities which Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited), Bethnal Green, E., distributed through THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST some time ago will have given many in the trade an opportunity of judging of the masterful manner in which the firm have attacked the problem of putting up every-day remedies in taking style, and so that the retailer may sell the articles under his own name. We have had the opportunity of examining several of the preparations, and it will be useful to put on record some notes of them. First, it may be observed that the plan adopted in bottling such things as malt extract and its combinations, cod-liver oil, cod-liver oil emulsion, and effervescent saline is to put the article in a good plain bottle; then it is capsuled, and labelled with a tastefully-printed label in black letters on white paper, without the name of manufacturer or retailer. Next, the bottle is placed in a strong carton, which is as handsome as an artist of good

taste can make it with gold and colours. The annexed are fair examples of the styles adopted, without, of course, the colours. It will be observed that there is a space on every carton for the name and address of the retailer. On examination we find all the articles which we have named to be high-class pharmaceutically, and we can with confidence commend them to the attention of the trade. We may also mention the capsules made by Messrs. Allen & Hanburys by the French machine-method, which they have been working



for some years now, and have carried to a high point of accuracy. The capsules are made in the familiar ovule shape and as perles or pills. The firm make a special feature of presenting in the perle-shape (5 to 7½ gr.) teaspoonful-doses of many liquors which are not nice to take, and which they make in the concentrated form. These capsules keep well in any climate. We may also call attention to the new "Allenburys" toilet-soap, which is made with the pure soap basis, slightly superfatted, to which we referred some time ago. The new "Allenburys" cake is delightfully perfumed, and after a fortnight's trial we find it to give satisfaction. The same may be said of the "Allenburys" shaving-cake, which gives a lasting lather and soothes the skin. These soaps are all elegantly put up.

Personalities.

MR. J. BROOKS, chemist and druggist, East Ham, has been elected a member of the Essex County Council.

WE reported last week that Mr. H. Cryer had been appointed Divisional Secretary for the Pharmaceutical Society for West Islington; it should have been North Islington.

AT the complimentary dinner to the non-commissioned officers of the "A" (Hexham) Company of the 1st V.B. Northumberland Fusiliers the chair was occupied by Sergt. John Gibson, who is a chemist and druggist in Hexham.

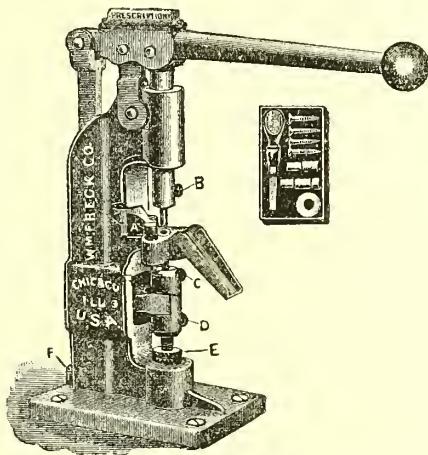
MR. E. P. COOPER, of the firm of William Cooper & Nephews, of Berkhamsted, the sheep-dip manufacturers, has been invited by the committee of the Sociedad Rural Argentina to become the honorary English representative of an exhibition of stock to be held near Buenos Ayres in September. Mr. Cooper has accepted the honour, and is now organising a representation of stock from British breeders, which he has reason to believe will be quite unique in variety and interest. The firm's own representatives will look after the interests of all exhibitors.



THE paths of the Town Traveller diverge continually, but when he is told to see what is "new in druggists' sundries," his thoughts naturally tend towards Aldersgate Street, and an irresistible impulse drags him to No. 11, where the world-famous firm of

S. MAW, SON & THOMPSON

have their habitation. Copy is always a certainty there, for Maws' have always something "just in." Their very latest is a particularly neat, handy, portable, and withal simple, invention for tablet-making at the counter, which is known as the "Freck Prescription Tablet-machine." It is intended



especially for the use of retail chemists, and has evidently caught on, for Messrs. Maw, Son & Thompson are so satisfied with its selling propensities that they have just placed an order with the makers for five dozen more. We reproduce the machine, and its simplicity will be at once noted, but its efficiency must be seen to be believed. An apprentice could turn out excellent tablets with this machine at the rate of fifty or sixty a minute. The powder or material to be made into tablets is put in the funnel-feeder, and the feeder moved over the die, which is filled automatically. The feeder is moved back and the lever brought down, compressing the powder. When the lever is raised the lower compressor is moved up at the same time, thus bringing the perfected tablet to the surface, whence it is discharged through the spout by the sweeping motion of the feeder, and all this is done (in addition to the movement of the feeder) by once lowering and raising the lever. The lower compressor is adjusted by means of a screw, so that tablets of any thickness can be made, and if once set tablets of uniform weight are guaranteed. Each machine has two sets of dies and compressors, and tablets can be made from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 grammes weight. The machine is $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, only takes 4 by 6

inches counter-space, and 1 lb. pressure on the lever gives 10 lbs. pressure on the tablet. The price is 50s., subject to the usual discount. In anticipation of the new B.P. and the adoption of the metric system, Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson have now in stock complete sets of metric weights for counter-use. A complete set of brass weights from 10 grammes down to 1 centigramme (with tongs for lifting the smaller weights) costs 4s. 6d.; sets of 20 grammes downwards sell at 5s. 6d.; and 50 grammes down for 6s. 6d. Nickel weights may be obtained at somewhat higher prices. A new feeding-cup which the firm have brought out lately is worthy of note. It is of the usual shape, but made of best china, and the flowered varieties are "what is known in the classics as 'rekerkay,'" as my genial guide put it. The trade price for the plain variety is 1s. per doz.; flowered are 2s. 6d. A new poison-bottle (Maws' super) and a novel shape in smelling-salts also engage attention. The poison-bottles can be had in flats or hexagons, actinic or blue, and the smaller is oval with a Prince of Wales's feather stopper.

Amongst the dazzling array of perfume-sprays (which, by the way, has a special department to itself now) the "rainbow" pattern is conspicuous, but these popular articles are to be had in all shades and shapes.

A large variety of manicure sets is also noticeable, and some very cheap lines are shown. Complete sets, in boxes containing six pieces in a set, sell for 1s. 9d.; five-piece sets, 1s. 4d.; four-piece sets, 1s. 1d. Celluloid is becoming more and more popular for toilet-articles, and a very pretty hair-brush, with amber-tinted celluloid back and handle in one piece, and a stand for nail and tooth brushes complete of the same material, ought to sell well.

Among perfumes we noted a ball-shaped sachet of violets with a spray attached, and a new eau de Cologne, selling at 12s. 6d. per dozen, which looked remarkably good value. There was also a cheap shilling line in perfumes, each bottle having a gold-block label and a feather stopper, and packed in separate boxes. A new aromatic tooth-soap, packed in a circular box of green celluloid, sells at 3s. 9d. per dozen; and a larger size for shaving, put up in the same manner, sells at 7s. 6d. per dozen.

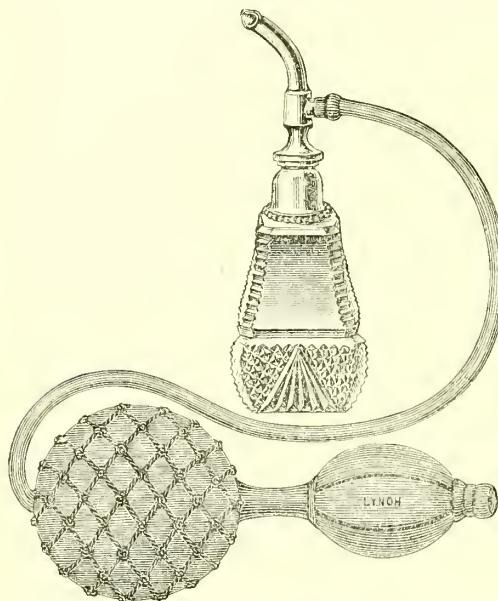
STERN BROTHERS, 57 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.,

are probably the largest refiners of mineral oils and greases in the world. They have a large factory at Pantin (Paris), where enormous quantities of both American and Russian petroleum-products are dealt with and purified, besides other factories and depôts all over the civilised globe. We took samples of such of their goods as are suited for pharmacists, among them many qualities of heavy petroleum oils, the purest being water-white, bloomless, and quite odourless and tasteless. These were tested by the method advised by Mr Bird at the B.P.C. meeting (*C. & D.*, August 14, 1897, page 288), and were found free from sulphur compounds. This oil is adapted for internal use, and is now popular in the form of emulsion, and much used for injections and as a vehicle for applications to the eye and skin. The firm have all grades of heavy petroleum oil, the straw-coloured, for instance, being used for hair-oil, and, being odourless, is easily perfumed. The petroleum-jellies turned out by Messrs. Stern Brothers are in all qualities, differing in melting-points and colour, and distinguished by transparency and freedom from acid and foreign matter.

Among the many novelties in toilet-requisites which

MESSRS. LYNCH & CO.,

of Aldersgate Street, are showing at present, is a new puff-box, of frosted opal, with gilt-enamel decoration and embossed nickel-top. They have also a new thing in perfume-sprays, which we reproduce. The shape of the bottle is novel, and these sprays may be had either in plain white crystal, ruby-tinted, or in citron and white. The prices range from 22s. 6d. per dozen to 90s., the 4-oz. citron and white being a very fetching article. The mounts are gilt, and the rubber of the best quality. A new shaving-



mug, of peculiar rustic shape, is also shown, and xylonite puff-boxes, with mirror on top, are to be had in all colours, and at prices from 12s. 6d. to 16s. Among smelling-salts the globe-shape, in all tints (green, blue, ruby, rose, &c.), with gilt necks and cut-glass stoppers, are most noteworthy; but they have a special line in a half-wheel shape, green-tinted, which sells at 10s. per dozen. Their "Perpetual Pocket Almanac" and mirror, in imitation tortoiseshell, is a useful little article, and ought to sell well at 6d., and they have an unlimited supply of pocket-comb-and-mirror combinations in blue xylonite cases to sell at 6d. and 1s. To ardent swains, troubled about an offering for Cynthia or Sarah, Lynch & Co. recommend a neat and cheap present—a lady's comb and brush in a velvet-lined leather case, which sells at 5s.

In the instrument section a new line in thermometers seems particularly good value. It is named the "Rustic," is mounted on boxwood, with a walnut carved frame, measures 13½ inches by 6 inches, and sells at 13s. 6d. per dozen. Vaccination-shields are now put up in dozen boxes to sell at 1s. 6d. and these seem equal in every particular to the usual retail 6d. article. Cheap lines in abdominal belts and trusses are also shown, and although rubber has advanced 10 per cent., no difference is being made in the price of Lynch's patent safety encma, the sale of which is steadily increasing. Another useful little article in this section is a small vulcanite pocket bottle, with screw-cork and sponge affixed, which is intended for seaside or holiday use. The bottle is charged with liquid ammonia, which is applied with a sponge to the face or hands, when stung by gnats, wasps, or mosquitoes.

In passing further along Aldersgate Street our Town Traveller's attention was arrested by a strong odour of violets. He looked around for the harmless necessary flower-girl, but nothing but a waggoner and a peripatetic bootlace-vendor were in sight, so he followed his smell, and it finally landed him at 36a, the establishment of

MESSRS. F. SCHUTZE & CO.,

and the birthplace of Violette de Parme (Grant et Cie.), which, as our literary editor remarked, simply goes to prove

that the most unreasoning of animals invariably reaches its destination by following its natural instincts. Our Town Traveller's first greeting on entering Messrs. Schutze's showroom was from an engaging young Japanese lady who was squatting on the counter waving her fan behind her head à la Pitti Sing; alongside was a baby in more or less swaddling clothes riding a rabbit, while in the background was a dairy-maid, with baskets, eggs, and cows complete, standing in a field of buttercups and daisies. This was a most agreeable—though somewhat startling—reception, but after the first shock Messrs. Schutze's representative explained that these were merely a few of the scenic accessories which the firm send out to customers for window-display. The dairy-maid, basket, and daisies and all go with two gross of Buttermilk Ball soap, and Pitti Sing goes with Grant et Cie.'s Violette de Parme or Violette de Russe; after being wound up she is guaranteed to keep on fanning for eight or nine hours. Their showroom is at present in a state of chaos consequent upon an enlargement of their premises rendered necessary by increasing trade. They have one or two novelties in the way of perfumes which are going well (lily of the valley, wallflower, &c.), and each perfume has an appropriate spray of the flower attached to the neck of the bottle. An attractive penny line which ought to go well is their packet of "Tit-bit Cachous." Violette de Parme has reached Australia and New Zealand, and is being accepted with gratification by the Heathen Chinee.

Our representative found

MESSRS. F. NEWBERRY & SONS,

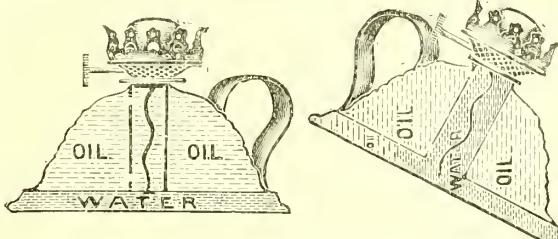
1 and 3 King Edward Street, as busy as bees when he called the other day, export-orders being heavy just at present. A large order had been booked for Lucerne for the coming season, and another big line for an Indian customer accounted in some measure for the rush. The gentleman in charge, however, courteously showed our representative their new brand of perfumes and specialities—viz., the "St. Paul's." The stopper of the perfume-bottles is dome-shaped—a miniature of the dome of St. Paul's—and violet-powder and fullers'-earth tins and other specialities have St. Paul's branded on the top. In smelling-salts a large variety was noted. The round, globular, or square (coloured crimson, yellow, rose, &c., and filled complete) looked a great deal for the money—viz., 16s. per dozen. The latest thing in puff, soap, and toothpowder boxes appeared to be "moiré" celluloid, and these are obtainable in all colours. The toothpowder box is particularly noticeable. It is of oval shape, with embossed lid, and sells at 4s. 6d. per dozen. Vulcanite and celluloid dressing-combs, with fluted grail, coming to a point or edge in the centre, so that any dust or dirt may be easily dislodged with a brush, are among the newest things in combs, and these, with a shut-up pocket-comb, comprise most of the novelties.

Our Town Traveller, in the course of his peregrinations, was attracted to a new lamp which shone forth from the windows of 107 High Street, Borough, and not exactly understanding the novelty of the affair he dropped in to interview the manager of the

HYGIENIC LIGHT AND HEATING COMPANY.

From the explanation cheerfully accorded, he discovered that "Stoney's Safety Lamp" is an ingenious idea to prevent lamp-explosions and their subsequent results. The Stoney's lamp looks just like any other paraffin-oil lamp, but when we come to investigate its internal economy we find the difference. The inside of the lamp consists of a water-container placed in the bottom and an oil-chamber connected by a small oil-duct with a wick-tube, the oil being connected with the water. In the event of the lamp being overturned the water rushes to the flame and the oil in the base of the wick-tube into the vacated water-container, which also receives any oil that issues from the supply-duct, until the lamp is restored to its upright position. Another advantage which is claimed is that the water cools the oil, thus preventing overheating; and it is also claimed that the popular amusement of blowing down the chimney will not cause an explosion, there being no gas in the wick-tube. The inventors further assert that the water increases the illuminating-power of the oil, and that if anyone feels disposed he (or she) may throw the lamp across the room, and

no explosion will be caused. Our representative can speak of the efficacy of the invention, as he personally overturned a number of the lamps, putting out the flame without the



slightest trouble. The lamp (in each case) was re-lighted immediately, the flame burning as brightly as before, showing that the contact of the oil with the water did not interfere with its burning-properties.

"Anything new?" echoed the manager at

MESSRS. MAY, ROBERTS & CO.'S

to our representative's query. "Well, I do not think we have anything very startling to show you. You see, our customers are keeping us so busy turning out the old that we have no time to think of anything new. When business slackens down a bit, we will perhaps find time to sit down and evolve some novelty which will astonish you." No better excuse for the want of novelty could be given; but, nevertheless, he had a walk through all the departments, and found one or two new features in construction since his last visit. For instance, the telephone is now installed all over the establishment, each department having a separate instrument, which must be a great convenience for all concerned, and expedite business greatly. Two new rooms have also been fitted-up recently for the convenience of customers. One is a "trying-on room" for trusses, abdominal belts, and what not, with a lady-attendant for lady-customers, and special telephonic communication to the various departments, so that the strictest privacy is assured. The other new arrangement is a dark-room for the use of photographers, which is fitted-up with all the latest appliances. Our representative was also shown a compact little weighing-machine—viz., "The Personal"—for standing on the shop-floor for the use of customers. Chemists with "anti-fat" specialities or "nourishing" tonics may find these useful for gauging the success of their medicine; and, as the machine takes up very little floor-space, and only costs 16s, it may be safely recommended. The machine is graduated in stones, and is not intended to be used for weighing goods. Amongst other new lines the "Rapid" orange-peeler is to be noted. It is a simple contrivance of bone, with a sharpened notch near one end, and is so constructed that the handle of the peeler can be used as a paper-knife or letter-opener. The firm are also showing a new line in cosmetics, put up in square boxes with showy floral labels, to sell at 2s. 9d. and 3s. 3d. per dozen. Another special line is citrate of magnesia, in large, blue, well-made panels, and an effervescent saline, in showy cartons, at 7s. 6d. per dozen. The "Prince of Wales Polish," invented by Prince & Co., Clerkenwell, which May, Roberts & Co. bought lately, is a good-going sixpenny line.

Trade Notes.

AN opportunity for ingenious chemists to earn a guinea is offered by a firm of aerated-water makers, who will give that amount for the best title, capable of registration as a trademark, for a new water, which they have manufactured. Particulars are advertised in the Supplement.

MESSRS. SAMUEL FITZE & CO., 4 Bankshall Street, Calcutta, 66 Esplanade Road, Bombay, and Dunolly Road, Karrachi, have been appointed Indian agents for Messrs. Barnett & Foster, Niagara Works, Eagle Wharf Road, N.

MESSRS. A. BOURJOIS & CIE, Paris, the proprietors of Java powder and other toilet-preparations, have appointed Mr. Henry C. Quelch, 4 Ludgate Square, Ludgate Hill, E.C.,

their agent for the United Kingdom, and he holds stock of all their leading lines.

IN a special announcement published among our advertisements the Bovril Company state explicitly the terms on which they are willing to give bonuses to retailers of their products. The opportunity of securing this advantage only lasts during the month of March.

MESSRS. J. S. FRY & SONS (LIMITED), of Bristol, are sending out with a sample of their pure concentrated cocoa a remarkably pretty little pocket-book almanac, which contains some information not usually found in almanacs, and a little treatise on "Cocoa," by Dr. Andrew Wilson.

MR. JNO. H. SMITH, proprietor of the Flyodoomo fly-stickers, is removing his factory from Balderton Gate to Carter Gate, Newark, where he has bought the lease of larger and more convenient premises in order to compete with the increased demand which he anticipates this season. Mr. Smith sends us a big sheet of chemists' testimonials to his Flyodoomo, which he informs us was printed at his own works.

OL. MORRHULE Nov.—A sample of Otto S. Jervell's new Lofoten cod-liver oil, which Messrs. Linton, Hubbard & Co., 27 Leadenhall Street, send us, confirms the view which we have already expressed as to the excellence of this season's oil. Messrs. R. W. Greeff & Co., Eastcheap, E.C., also send us a sample of the oil for which they are agents (Thesen's), and we may rank it with the finest. Neither of these firms, we should add, supply other than wholesale buyers.

Business Changes.

MR. W. STANDING, of Darwen, has removed from a cottage made into a shop at the corner of Arch Street.

THE business carried on by Mr. Hugh Davis as a branch at St. Anne's, Barmouth, has been taken over by Mr. D. E. James, late manager.

MR. WILLIAM HAM, High Street, Hounslow, has disposed of his business to Mr. G. L. Austin, late of Sheerness. Messrs. Berdoe & Co. conducted the transfer.

MESSRS. ADOLPHE SAALFIELD & CO., manufacturers of essential oils, have removed from 38 Lancaster Avenue, Fennel Street, to more commodious premises at 2 South King Street, Manchester.

MR. J. R. VOLANS, late manager to Mr. Clarke, pharmaceutical chemist, Great Malvern, has purchased the business recently carried on by Mr. E. R. Cherrut at West Trimdon Street, Sunderland.

MR. F. J. RICHARDS, 152 Dudley Road, Birmingham, has disposed of his business to Mr. J. McLauchan, late of Lewisham, the negotiations being conducted through Messrs. Blackwell, Hayes & Spilsbury.

MESSRS. GEORGE WOODS AND JOHN GOODIER, drug-merchants, Preston, having dissolved partnership, will in future carry on business separately, Mr. Woods at the Kay Street Mill and Mr. Goodier at 9 St. John Street, Preston.

MESSRS. G. & G. STERN (LIMITED) have transferred all their interest and goodwill in the business of pumilines and salones to Messrs. Cooper Brothers, chemists, of Cocker-mouth, who will supply the articles either direct or through Messrs. F. Newbery & Sons, London.

MR. J. H. B. GREEN, late of Old Brompton, has purchased the chemist's business of Mr. G. F. Huntley, The Square, Wimborne, and intends removing to other premises as soon as necessary alterations are completed. Mr. Huntley retains his grocery business as before. Messrs. Berdoe & Co. effected the transfer.

BOSTON PHARMACISTS feel proud of an old book which has been presented to the library of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. The title-page of it reads: "The British Herbal, an History of Plants and Trees natives of Britain, cultivated for use or raised for beauty. By John Hill, M.D. Printed in London MDCLVI. for T. Osborne and J. Shipton, in Gray's Inn; J. Hodges, near London Bridge; F. Newbery in St. Paul's Church Yard; B. Collins and S. Crowder and H. Woodgate in Paternoster Row."

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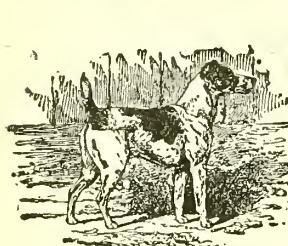
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NEW PHARMACOPÆIA.

See Diary, 1898, pages 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Editorial  + Comments

RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF CARBOLIC ACID.

ONCE again with a serious face the Home Secretary has told the House of Commons that the Privy Council have prepared a Bill to regulate the sale of carbolic acid and other poisonous substances which will shortly be introduced. This statement has been repeated by one Home Secretary after another, and people go on buying carbolic acid in beer and soda-water bottles, and dying agonising deaths in consequence, and the Lords of the Privy Council make no sign,

though the duty of preventing these deaths as far as they can be prevented by legislative means has been expressly committed to them.

The Home Secretary says that the Privy Council do not think it expedient to include carbolic acid in the schedule to the Pharmacy Act. They propose to make a new schedule of poisons, and to impose restrictions on their sale less complete than those imposed by the Pharmacy Act. This was what they proposed to do in 1885. In that year Lord Carlingford, then Lord President of the Privy Council, submitted a Bill to the House of Lords putting sulphuric, hydrochloric, nitric, and carbolic acids, butter of antimony, and chloride of zinc into a special schedule, providing that these substances were to be labelled "Poison" when sold, and that the name and address of the seller should be on the label, but that there should be no limitation of sellers. Lord Carlingford at that time justified his proposal by telling the House of Lords that these were substances which were less poisonous than the regularly scheduled articles. Since then the carbolic deaths have multiplied more than four-fold yearly, and the only charitable interpretation of the Home Secretary's reply to Mr. Woods is that the Privy Council does not know this. Their proposal was stupid in 1885; it would be criminal now.

We trust that if any such Bill as the Home Secretary indicates should be introduced the Pharmaceutical Society will at once organise such an opposition as will make it impossible to pass it. They can easily do this. They can be sure of the co-operation of the drug-trade almost to a man; of the sympathy and active co-operation of the medical profession; and of the earnest advocacy of many members of Parliament who will not be able to appreciate the reason for treating the most deadly and cruel poison which chemistry has given to the world with special leniency in order that oilmen and grocers may not be deprived of their present trumpery trade in it.

ALCOHOLIC EXTRACTS.

IT was at our request that Sir Howard Vincent asked the question in the House of Commons relating to the importation of foreign pharmaceutical extracts last week. The facts and figures which we have published on the subject have been laid before the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and we do not know that it is possible for us to do more at present. It now remains for the wholesale drug-trade to take further action. The Chancellor of the Exchequer plainly invited the trade to move when he said: "The Treasury will be prepared to consider any evidence that may be submitted to them in support of demands for assignment of duty rates on particular medicines or compounds which are held to be of necessity prepared with pure alcohol that disappears either wholly or in part in the process of manufacture." The recent action of the Treasury through the Customs in imposing duties upon certain ethyl ethers and chloralamide, hitherto imported free of duty, although they were clearly chargeable as being ethyl products, is ample encouragement, since it shows that the Treasury is not inclined to ignore the law, because the matter involved happens to be comparatively small. That is the only reasonable excuse for inaction on the part of the Chamber of Commerce Committee advanced to us; but we fail to see how it can longer obtain now that the subject has acquired the publicity which will give a strong backing to any further representations which may be made. The present is the time for action, and if wholesalers put their hearts into the matter, as they did in the case of the drawback on exportation of alcoholic tinctures, there is no substantial reason why the desired

end should not be secured before the year is much older. From communications which we have received from manufacturers, we are able to state that some are prepared to give the Inland Revenue chemists full facilities for corroborating any data regarding the loss of alcohol in making extracts which may be submitted by a representative body—such as the Drug Club, or the Committee of the Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce. By "extracts" it should be understood that we mean not only ext. nucis vomicae and the like, but jalap-resin, jalapin, and similar products, and the eclectic resinoids, such as podophyllin, euonymin, &c., in the preparation of which alcohol is employed. Since the Treasury is disposed to consider the matter, it would be extremely regrettable if those directly interested should not exert themselves immediately.

FEBRUARY BUSINESS SUMMED UP.

THERE is no improvement to note in the Board of Trade returns for February. The imports show the heavy decrease of 1,474,290*l.*, due mostly to raw materials, and the exports a decrease of 222,833*l.*, mainly made up of the falling-off in machinery. Included in this amount is a decrease of 43,740*l.* on chemicals and chemical and medicinal preparations. The imports for the first two months of the year show a decrease of 1,320,667*l.*, and the exports a decrease of 777,665*l.* The following figures show the articles of which the importation has quantitatively decreased during February, the figures in brackets being those for February, 1897:—

Cinnamon, 95,360 lbs. [160,870 lbs.]
Ginger, 1,605 cwt. [5,145 cwt.]
Spices, unenumerated, 569,201 lbs. [744,758 lbs.]
Quicksilver, 822,716 lbs. [1,257,023 lbs.]
Brimstone, 25,050 cwt. [40,392 cwt.]
Saltpetre, 10,220 cwt. [29,706 cwt.]
Cocoanut oil, 14,233 cwt. [21,275 cwt.]
Olive oil, 1,427 tuns [1,852 tuns]
Palm oil, 59,933 cwt. [62,906 cwt.]
Seeds, of all kinds, 2,701 tons [3,196 tons]
Turpentine, 3,996 cwt. [75,539 cwt.]
Gum arabic, 4,180 cwt. [4,407 cwt.]
Lac, seed, shell, stick, and dye, 9,092 cwt. [13,292 cwt.]
Rosin, 109,837 cwt. [291,729 cwt.]
Drugs, unenumerated, 64,344 <i>l.</i> [72,130 <i>l.</i>]

The following articles have been imported in increased quantities:—

Alkali, 14,154 cwt. [13,775 cwt.]
Tanning and dyeing barks, 22,335 cwt. [16,290 cwt.]
Chemical manufactures and products, unenumerated, 104,604 <i>l.</i> [94,318 <i>l.</i>]
Cochineal, 317 cwt. [119 cwt.]

The February exports comprised the following:—

Alkali, 284,113 cwt. [329,668 cwt.]
Medicines, comprising drugs and medicinal preparations, 76,535 <i>l.</i> [87,312 <i>l.</i>]
Copper sulphate, 8,175 tons [8,737 tons]
Chemical manufactures and products, unenumerated, 30,513 <i>l.</i> [14,126 <i>l.</i>]
Quicksilver, 167,953 lbs. [133,290 lbs.]
Cinnamon, 203,100 lbs. [89,656 lbs.]
Pepper, 1,420,800 lbs. [984,200 lbs.]
Spices, unenumerated, 581,600 lbs. [522,000 lbs.]
Saltpetre, 11,268 lbs. [5,055 lbs.]

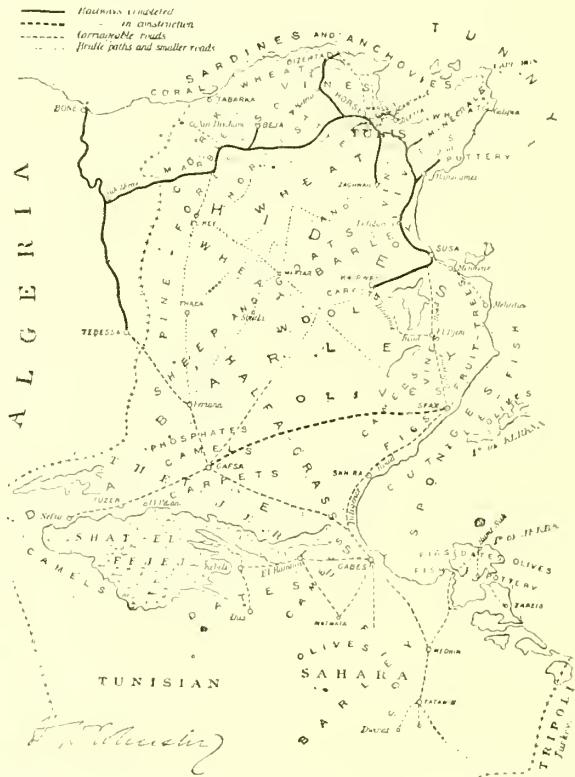
The Board of Trade for the first time draws attention to the fact that imports are generally classified as received from the countries whence they were shipped direct to the United Kingdom. In the great majority of cases the country of shipment is also the country of origin; but this is not always so, and in many instances merchandise originating in one country is credited in the tables to other countries at whose ports it has been transhipped, or through whose territories it has been conveyed by rail for shipment to Great

Britain. In particular cases in which this mode of classifying imports appears likely to give a misleading idea of the real course of trade, efforts are made by the Customs department to attribute such imports to the actual countries of first shipment. In all cases it is not possible to do this, in the absence of "certificates of origin" of imported goods. The following are examples in which difficulty arises:—
(a) Switzerland, Bolivia, the South African Republic, and the Orange Free State, which have no seaboard, do not figure in the returns at all, and merchandise sent thence is usually credited to the country containing the port of shipment. (b) Large quantities of goods from Japan and China are transhipped at Colombo. Other Eastern goods are transhipped at Marseilles. Goods from Chile and Peru are largely transhipped at Colon, on the isthmus of Panama. In these cases the goods are, so far as possible, credited to the country of original shipment instead of to the port of transhipment. (c) During the winter months a considerable quantity of Canadian produce comes *via* the ports of the United States, and, in the absence of direct proof, a certain portion of the Canadian trade gets credited to the United States. Exports are, as a rule, credited to the country of ultimate destination on the declaration of the exporters. Exports, however, to countries which possess no seaboard are credited to the country in which the port of discharge is situated. These explanations in the report have been made in consequence of an order by the House of Commons, and we presume that the index, which is also added, is another improvement for which we have to thank members of Parliament.

TUNIS TRADE.

IT was a happy thought of the Marquis of Salisbury to send Sir H. H. Johnston to Tunis as the British representative. Fresh from the making of a new British colony in Central Africa, a gifted observer, ready writer, and keen about trade matters, he is just the man to look carefully after the interests of our merchants. His first report justifies the choice. It is No. 447 of the Foreign Office Series of Consular Reports, costs $4\frac{1}{2}d.$, and as literature deserves to rank with the famous Samoan despatch which Robert Louis Stevenson penned. Tunis is chiefly interesting to us as a buyer of cottons and chemicals, and as an exporter of good olive oil. Sir H. H. Johnston deals with these matters, but he approaches the subject from the historical side. The country was once an appanage of the Roman Empire, and for eighteen years has been a protectorate of "that daughter of Rome—France," which is Sir Harry's way of putting it. We cannot enter deeply into the history; suffice it to say that the report shows how France has made of Tunis (in 1880 a barbarous place) a prosperous and self-supporting colony, with contented people and all modern improvements. She has succeeded where we failed. The Romans were the founders of the olive-groves of the country, which the Arab invasions of the seventh century almost extinguished; but during the present century the culture began afresh, and has developed until now it is calculated that there are about 12,000,000 olive-trees in Tunisia. Sir H. H. Johnston tells all about this in his report, describes how the trees are nurtured, what it costs to plant a grove, and when it begins to pay. The principal centre of olive-cultivation is the town of Sfax. We reproduce on a reduced scale a sketch-map showing what products the districts of the country chiefly yield. Olive-trees and sponges environ Sfax. The commonest species of olive-tree, and the one which yields the most oil, is called by the Arabs Shemlali. This is the kind mainly used for making the oil. The best table-olive is the Mellahi, the

fruits of which are nearly the size of a small apricot. This variety is chiefly exported to Europe for salting and bottling. Olive-trees begin to bear fruit sometimes in the third year of growth. At six or seven years old the trees may give as much as 2 or 3 quarts of fruit, but the real regular yield does not commence till they are ten years old. Fine trees of twenty years old may have a yield of 200 quarts of fruit per annum. The fruit is ripe in October and November, and is harvested from then until the end of January. The older the trees the richer is the fruit in oil. Young trees give fruit which yields 10 per cent, of its



weight of oil, and when the trees are in their prime the yield of oil is 18 to 20 per cent. of the fruit, or 30 per cent. when European oil-presses are used instead of Arab mills. The present annual production is 20,000,000 kilos. of oil, valued at 15,000,000f. The oil is subject to an export-duty of 12.37f. per 100 kilos. (about 1d. per lb.), and if in the future it is made in the same way as in the past it will pay a heavy import-duty, because, by a decree promulgated on December 27, 1897, high duties will be levied on certain vegetable oils and oil-seeds imported from Great Britain or through Malta (which is the same thing). This, says Sir H. H. Johnston,

will practically exclude cotton-seed oil from importation. As this product is chiefly used in the Regency for adulterating olive oil, and is, under the name of olive oil, exported to Great Britain, I confess I do not regret this increase of duty as much as I do the free admission of French calicoes, which will give them great advantages over similar British goods in the Tunisian markets.

It is an astonishing thing that with one hand we adulterate and with the other labour to detect adulteration. Of other Tunisian products almonds, pistachios, cumin, fennel, henna, quinces, tanning-bark, esparto, perfumes, and sponges are those which most interest us. "What a delicious existence for a world-weary man to settle in sunny Tunis and to devote himself to growing flowers for perfumes,

deriving from this pursuit a modest and sufficient revenue!" So writes Sir H. H. Johnston. Rose and jasmine are the flowers mentioned in his report, and we gather that they are used for pomade-making. In the shallow seas along the coast between Sfax and Jerha, Greek and Maltese fishermen dive for sponges, some of which are of good quality, but they are mostly indifferent. Still, 15 tons of them (valued at 8,000*l.*) were shipped to Great Britain last year. The value of the sponges in Sfax is from 3*s.* to 4*s. 6d.* per lb., and they are subject on exportation to a tax of 18.60*f.* per 100 kilos. on uncleaned sponges and 37.35*f.* on the cleaned. The fishing-boats pay a tax of 75*f.* to 1,500*f.*, according to size and equipment.

Tunis buys from Great Britain over half a million pounds' worth of goods per year, and the total is increasing. The authorities give us credit for half of this only, because half is shipped *via* France or in French ships, which Sir H. H. Johnston thinks is not bad for us, because the classification, if continued, will allow goods so shipped to escape the import-duty of 8 per cent. recently imposed on British, but not on French, goods. There is a liking in the colony for things English. Lipton's and Horniman's teas are to be found everywhere; the people also like our cocoa, and English paints, varnishes, paint-oils and washing-soda are wanted—not to a large extent, but they are preferred to others, and would be used exclusively if English houses would only quote in metric weights and measures and in francs, but they stubbornly persist in using English terms almost exclusively. This condition is sufficiently shown in the following paragraph, which we give in Sir H. H. Johnston's own words:—

At most chemists patent medicines and prepared drugs of British origin are in favour. They seem to come chiefly from Burroughs & Wellcome, a firm which has taken a great hold on the French market. These medicines and the particulars about the dose are described in French. Other British druggists have but a poor hold on the market, except in chemicals imported in masses, because they send out their medicines labelled with English descriptions, unintelligible to the Franco-Tunisians.

Herein is the trade-lesson deducible from the report, and although only some 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* worth of "chemicals" annually is involved in it, we would urge once more the importance of the principle involved. Tunis is typical of many markets in the world which are open to us if our merchants would but carry out the old adage of doing to others as they would be done unto. We English prefer to buy by the pound, gallon, and yard, because these are terms familiar to us; we prefer a "spot" price to a "f.o.b." one, and buyers in Tunis have the same notions in regard to kilos. and metres, and the values in francs at Sfax. There is no real difficulty in that; and it is the fact that they have gone about the matter in this business-like way which has given Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. a footing in the colony, and a permanent advertisement in a Foreign Office document.

UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

THE influence of the forward party in the medical profession is traceable in the application which was made by Mr. Muir Mackenzie, the counsel of the General Medical Council, last week to the Magistrate at the Westminster Police Court for a summons against a certain practitioner whose name had been struck off the register, but who nevertheless continued to practise and to use the titles which had originally given him his right to registration. From the reports we have seen it is not quite clear whether the man's alleged offence

was the use of the qualification or his practice although unregistered. Mr. Sheil, the Magistrate, we are told, questioned whether registration was compulsory if a man possessed the qualifications. Mr. Mackenzie contended that it was, and that otherwise a man is not entitled to practise. Mr. Sheil asked counsel to produce anything which said that a man who had his degrees was prevented from practising through non-registration. Mr. Mackenzie cited cases and a judgment of Lord Coleridge in a particular case very like the present one. In that instance a man was struck off the register for misconduct. Mr. Sheil observed that that would not make him any less M.D. if he had ever taken that degree. Mr. Mackenzie replied that Lord Coleridge inferred that a man who used the title "M.D." implied that he was registered. Counsel pressed for a summons, as it was essential to have it decided whether a person struck off the register for misconduct was entitled to continue practice just as though he were registered. Mr. Sheil said he did not think there was anything in the Act which made it obligatory for a qualified man to be registered, though there ought to be such a provision. He declined to grant the summons.

It is not likely that the legal advisers of the Medical Council will submit to this preliminary check. The next step will be to apply to the High Court for a mandamus to compel the Magistrate to grant a summons, and we shall not be sorry to see the claim fully contested. The purpose of the action is apparent. The contention has been put forward lately—though up to now we are not aware that the Medical Council has endorsed it or even encouraged it—that by some ingenious reading of the Medical Act it can be made out that registration under it is a licence to practise, and that without it medical practice is penal. We have always supposed, and we suppose still, that, outside the ancient Apothecaries Act, there is no section of English law which prevents anyone from undertaking any branch of medical or surgical practice whatever, so long as he does not misrepresent himself, though of course he and his clients must take the risk of his ignorance—he under the common law, and they under Providence. We know of no statutory prohibition which should prevent the President of the Pharmaceutical Society (to take an unlikely instance) from taking a house in Harley Street and prescribing for as many people as would come to him at a guinea each or whatever he and they might fix upon as the value of his advice. If, however, the law is what Mr. Muir Mackenzie professionally declares it to be, the sooner this is known the better, for it will have to be altered.

THE DAVY-FARADAY LABORATORY.

In consequence of the presentation by subscribers at Northwich of an illuminated address in a solid silver casket to Dr. Ludwig Mond in recognition of his gift of the Davy-Faraday laboratory to the nation, a correspondent of the *Times* points out in the course of a column that the laboratory was not gifted to the nation, but to the Royal Institution, and that it did not cost 100,000*l.*, but 38,000*l.*, as Dr. Mond is only paying the interest of 62,000*l.* in the meantime. He has covenanted to pay the 62,000*l.*, or that his heirs will do so, but there is a withdrawing-clause in the deed which, the correspondent says, may leave the Royal Institution in a hole some day. "It will then find itself 2,500*l.* out of pocket, and in possession of a freehold house presumably worth 23,000*l.*, but requiring an expenditure of 8,000*l.* or 10,000*l.* to reconvert it to ordinary uses. The Royal Institution has no funds to carry on the Davy-Faraday Laboratory without endowment, or even to keep the building in a non-paying condition. . . . Mr. Mond's annual payments only suffice to meet expenditure imposed by himself, and may be stopped at any moment. They do not suffice to pay for supreme scientific direction, which is given gratuitously by the professors of the Royal Institution."

A MATTER OF VOWELS.

Name-similarities are getting to be too common especially in regard to synthetic products, "Helen" is the latest. It is the name of a new saccharin introduced into the United States, and it makes a pair with "nitragin"; for we have "halogen" and "helen," "nitrogen" and "nitragin." What next?

NOSTRUMS.

Dr. Morton Smale, writing to the *Lancet*, asks if it is not possible to bring pressure to bear upon the Legislature in regard to suppressing secret medicines, the desirability of which all members of the medical profession, he says, are agreed upon. Mention is made of the suggestion thrown out by Sir William Broadbent when speaking to the students of St. Mary's Hospital in 1896, and Dr. Smale thinks with him that if the ingredients and exact quantities of the drugs were printed on the bottle, it would explode a good deal of the mystery at present enveloping these remedies. The Board of Trade should be approached on the subject by representatives of all medical corporations and societies, he says, and urged by deliberate consultation to arrive at some remedy for the existing state of affairs.

THE OLD STORY.

British exports to Sweden are not increasing or even holding their own, against German competition. The increase of the German trade (says our Consul) is due to the energy and push of the German commercial travellers, who overrun the country in all directions, and give long credits. Among other suggestions as to reasons of the decline of British trade is that expensively got-up price-lists and circulars sent to Sweden are thrown away because British firms will not print them in the language and with the currency of the country. The absence of suitable commercial travellers is another reason. German traders have technical agents appointed at different places who understand how to meet the wishes of the people they deal with. There is a monthly tax of 5*l.* 10*s.* on all commercial travellers in Sweden, which may now be taken out from any day of the month, and not, as formerly, from the first day of the month.

BARNARD S. PROCTOR.

The pharmacists of Newcastle-on-Tyne are proposing to show their esteem for their accomplished and popular *confière*, Mr. Barnard S. Proctor, F.I.C., pharmaceutical chemist, who, as we recently announced, has retired from the business with which he has so long been connected, and intends to take up his residence in Bath. The Council of the Newcastle Chemists' Association have formed themselves into a testimonial committee, and it is intended to invite Mr. Proctor to a dinner, and to make him a presentation. The Council of the Association wish it to be understood that they are simply taking the initiative in the matter. They think that the prominent position in the ranks of pharmacy which Mr. Proctor has occupied for so many years warrants an appeal to a wider circle than the members of the local Association. Friends are asked to communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. George F. Merson, F.C.S., 24 Newgate Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, or with the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Kerse, 17 Great Market, Newcastle-on-Tyne. We do not doubt that a large number of pharmacists to whom Mr. Proctor's name and works, if not his personal presence, are familiar will heartily sympathise with this movement.

PREPARATIONS OF MORPHIA.

To publicly declare that a chemist had been reckless and careless and guilty of gross negligence is language which ought only to be used by a coroner when the circumstances absolutely and convincingly justify it. We do not think the Derby Coroner was by any means justified in indulging in such declamation. The chemist denounced was undoubtedly

wrong in not labelling his cough-mixture poison, but this was not all that the Coroner insisted upon. Mr. Booth, the chemist, had sold a cough-mixture containing a little solution of morphia. This may or may not be a good mixture, but let it be squarely admitted that thousands of chemists do the same thing, and that millions of such mixtures are sold annually without any harm resulting. But the Coroner based his unmeasured charges on the legal aspect of the sale, and in this respect he will, perhaps, discover that his cocksure interpretation of the law was at least open to question. He insisted that a mixture containing morphia ought to be registered when sold, as well as labelled poison. For that view it may be said that all poisonous vegetable alkaloids and their salts are named in the first part of the schedule, and on the contention that when a chemist sells a mixture containing any proportion of morphia he sells morphia, the suggestion that such a mixture should be registered is sound. But, on the other hand, it has to be remembered that subsequent to the passing of the Act, and under its provisions, "preparations of morphia" were explicitly added to the schedule and left in the second part. That being so, we have no doubt whatever that a competent Court would rule that in the sale of preparations of morphia the registration is not legally necessary.

CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS AND THE STORES.

We think "Tocsin," who writes such a vigorous letter in our correspondence section this week, rather weakens his argument by over-emphasis. It is, of course, true, and has been many times pointed out, that companies could not fully carry on a chemist's and druggist's business without the aid of at least one qualified assistant in each shop. It is also true, but only to a limited extent, that assistants would have a better chance of getting into business for themselves if companies could be wiped out. But so they would if five hundred legitimate chemists could be wiped out. Competition of some kind or other they will have to face; and, as things are going, the competition of the legitimate chemist is likely to be every bit as severe as that of the company. But "Tocsin" pictures the time when companies will monopolise the pharmacy of a whole district. What better opening than such a district could a smart, competent young pharmacist wish for? But the weakness of "Tocsin's" appeal lies principally in its futility. It is a logical fact that if all qualified assistants could be induced from a certain day to boycott the companies, the companies would be cornered. When cutters first began to get troublesome the "Tocsins" of the time wrote to the trade press and showed that if the wholesale houses would unitedly refuse to supply them with drugs and sundries and proprietary medicines, the game would collapse. An attempt has been made to carry out this scheme by the P.A.T.A., and one little corner of the business has been protected. But large schemes which depend on the absolute unanimity of a large body of interested persons are doomed to failure. Even little ones can only be maintained by the most unceasing vigilance. If all the makers of pestles and mortars could be induced to refuse to sell their manufactures directly or indirectly to companies, they would harass the companies. But competition, like nature, abhors a vacuum. Someone else would make pestles and mortars inside of a week. So, too, if all the present generation of assistants could be persuaded into "Tocsin's" union within a year, a new lot of men would soon come forward to fill the demand. This is a thickly-populated country, and there are millions of people intensely eager for bread and cheese. A ring-fence round one particular form of industry is a simple impossibility.

THE INDIGO-CROP in India last year was taken from 1,381,000 acres of ground, and the yield of dye was 151,000 cwt.

Alcoholic Extracts.

TRADE OPINIONS.

DURING the past month we have been in communication with a number of representative firms who manufacture preparations in which alcohol is used and, to use the Chancellor of the Exchequer's words, "disappears either wholly or in part in the process of manufacture." We have also interviewed others on the subject, and we now, for future reference, put the opinions on record:—

Mr. Richard Bankes Barron (President of the Drug Club, and senior partner of Messrs. Barron, Harveys & Co.), speaking to our representative, said that he had no doubt as to the justice of a countervailing duty; but, in view of the incompletely action of the sub-committee of the Chemical Section of the Chamber of Commerce, he could take no official steps at present.

Mr. Charles Umney (Secretary of the Drug Club, and principal partner of Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney) expresses himself in full sympathy with the movement. He is a member of the sub-committee referred to, and is prepared to give all assistance in his power to bring the matter to a definite conclusion. Before leaving on Tuesday for a holiday on the Mediterranean seaboard, Mr. Umney had not time to follow up the important declaration by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he hopes on his return to have something to say about it.

* * * * *

Mr. Thomas Tyrer, another member of the sub-committee, writes from the Stirling Chemical Works on February 17:—

We think it would be extremely desirable that something should be done in the direction you require, but, in our opinion, it is only part of a very large question, one portion of which is being conducted by a joint committee, apparently slowly, but really all the more effectively. It must never be forgotten that an overwhelming case must be made out to the satisfaction of the Revenue Departments before any such concession will be made.

Mr. E. A. Webb is also a member of the sub-committee, and his firm, Messrs. Evans, Lescher & Webb, write on behalf of themselves and the associate house, Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool, in the following terms (February 15):—

In our opinion the only really satisfactory way to give the English manufacturers a fair field to compete with their continental competitors is to grant, under restrictions, the use of duty-free pure alcohol. With such a concession not only would the difficulty of alcoholic extracts, not in itself a large one, be overcome, but also the difficulties of many far larger manufacturers, in which the use of denaturalised spirit is impossible, would be solved, and, above all, our manufacturers would be enabled to experiment in many directions, which at present are closed to them in consequence of their inability to use pure alcohol. The wholesale druggists, with members of the chemical-trade who are members of the London Chamber of Commerce, waited as a deputation on the authorities at Somerset House last March, and, whilst every encouragement was given to them as regards increasing the drawback system, the magnitude of the duty at present imposed on alcohol in this country precluded any hope of a concession to work with pure alcohol duty free. The question of imposing a duty on articles in the manufacture of which alcohol is employed, but in which alcohol is not contained in the finished product, was approached and favourably and sympathetically received by the authorities, who also expressed themselves in favour of considering the question of some special concession in any individual case of a manufacture when employment would be given to a large number of hands. We are, therefore, of opinion that a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce, praying for a countervailing duty upon alcoholic extracts imported into this country, would, if furnished with exact data of the loss in the manufacture of such extracts, which could very readily be supplied by us or others in the trade, be sure of an attentive and sympathetic hearing, and would probably meet with success; but unless a similar drawback was granted upon the exportation of such English-made alcoholic extracts, no relief would be obtained by the great export trade of this country. Until the use of duty-free pure alcohol is allowed, the trade of this country in this direction will continue to be heavily handicapped by the action of its own Government.

* * * * *

Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co. "think that an influential deputation is most essential to bring about good results."

Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co. sympathise with the movement, but are content to leave the matter in the hands of the London committee.

Messrs. Hearon, Squire & Francis have, through Mr. W. A. H. Naylor, intimated to us their full sympathy with the movement. They believe the matter, though small at present, is growing, and that many years may not elapse before foreign manufacturers with their advantage of cheap and duty-free alcohol may drive home makers out of the market by underselling them.

Messrs. Morson & Sons, through Mr. Taubman, inform us that while they feel that home manufacturers should have a fair field, the imported alcoholic extracts do not compete with the fine products made in this country, for which the prices obtained are sufficient to cover the loss of spirit.

* * * * *

Messrs. J. F. Macfarlan & Co. write from Edinburgh as follows:—"We have stated our views on the use of duty-free spirit in this country to the committee of the Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, and we understand the committee's report is at present under the consideration of the Board of Inland Revenue. The great difference between the duty on British and foreign spirit—10s. 6d.—1s. 6d.—makes the temptation to wrongdoing in this country very much greater than in Germany. We cannot, therefore, expect to receive the same lenient treatment until the revenue is safeguarded. So soon as this is done, British manufacturers will no doubt find themselves in a position to compete with their foreign rivals."

* * * * *

Mr. Francis Ransom (W. Ransom & Son, Hitchin), in the course of an interview, informed us that he had recently experienced that the difference in value of spirit lost was sufficient to put the English manufacturer's low quotations for extracts out of consideration. Frequently a few pence per lb. difference decides a large order, and the user of cheap duty-free spirit can sell at 3d. less (say, 3s. 9d.) per lb., with a profit what the English maker would lose on by selling at 4s. per lb. He corroborated generally *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*'s statements, and thought that a countervailing duty would meet the difficulty if the use of duty-free spirit in bond could not be sanctioned.

* * * * *

Messrs. John Richardson & Co., Leicester (Limited), do not think there would be much advantage gained by the use of duty-free spirit in the manufacture of alcoholic extracts, as at the present time they can, if the proper methods be used, be prepared in a much more satisfactory manner, and almost as cheap as the foreign substitutes. Their experience of the latter is that they are anything but satisfactory. If, however, English makers of chemicals were authorised to use duty-free spirit, they consider that it would prove of great benefit in enabling them to compete with the foreign makers.

* * * * *

Messrs. T. & H. Smith & Co. (Edinburgh) write in the following terms on February 22:—

Our view is to a certain extent in harmony with that of the writer of the article. We are perfectly agreed that the use of duty-free alcohol in operations where the spirit is either recovered or is rendered non-potable would be a boon to the manufacturer, and would enable him to meet on equal grounds what is properly described as the present unfair foreign competition, and to this extent we think any step of the kind indicated is much required in this country. But the difficulty arises when we begin to contemplate the irksome character of such regulations as the Excise would be sure to impose on its use. In the use of methylated spirit we are afforded certain freedom which in regard to pure alcohol it would be out of the question to look for. Speaking for ourselves, we would infinitely rather have the present system continued than submit to be hampered on every hand by a series of unworkable regulations such as would inevitably accompany the Board's sanction to employ pure instead of methylated alcohol. Until we have some idea, therefore, of the nature of the restrictions that may be imposed by the Board, we would refrain from giving our support to any proposal for the displacement of methylated spirit.

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Elsewhere in this issue we comment upon the present stage of the movement, and need scarcely add that we shall be glad to receive any further opinions on the matter, either for or against the suggested countervailing duty.

Legal Reports.

ELLIMAN'S FORMULAS.

A MOTION for an injunction to restrain Mr. Samuel Flather, of Chorlton-on-Medlock, from representing that he has in his possession the secret recipes from which is manufactured Elliman's embrocations, was made on March 4, in the Chancery Division, before Mr. Justice North. Mr. S. Eady, Q.C., and Mr. Ingpen appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant was unrepresented.

Mr. Eady, in applying for the injunction, said his client was Mr. James Elliman, of Slough, who traded as Elliman, Sons & Co. For many years he had been the manufacturer of the well-known embrocations—the "Universal," for human use; and the "Royal," for the use of horses and cattle. He was the sole proprietor of certain secret processes for the manufacture of these two liniments. For a considerable period these embrocations had enjoyed a wide reputation in Great Britain, the colonies, and in foreign countries. They were exclusively known to the public as the manufacture of Elliman's. There was no other liniment known under plaintiff's name, or of which his embrocation formed a part. Plaintiff's predecessor had spent large sums of money in creating, developing, and sustaining a market, and also in making his remedies as perfect as possible. The embrocations had not been patented, but they were trade secrets, only known to plaintiff and his manager. It lately came to his knowledge that the defendant had issued, and continued to issue, certain publications, in which he represented he was in possession of these trade secrets and the recipes. Defendant, in his pamphlets and circulars, gave instructions how to make the embrocations, and stated the ingredients of which they were composed. There was no truth in defendant's assertion.

His Lordship: He professes to give your materials, and how to mix and make them.

Mr. Eady: Yes. He even describes in one of his circulars the shape of the bottle the embrocation ought to be put into.

The injunction was granted.

POWELL v. FLATHERS.

"YORKSHIRE RELISH."

IN the Chancery Division on March 4, before Mr. Justice Romer, Mr. Ingpen moved on behalf of the plaintiff, who trades as Goodall, Backhouse & Co., for a writ of attachment against the defendant (who carries on business at Chorlton-on-Medlock) for disobedience to an interlocutory order which had since been made perpetual on August 18, 1897, restraining the defendant from stating that he was in possession of and able to communicate a secret trade-recipe belonging to the plaintiff, from which the plaintiff manufactured and sold a sauce known as Yorkshire Relish, and from advertising and representing as being a recipe for Yorkshire Relish a recipe which was not in accordance with the secret recipe from which the plaintiff manufactured and sold sauce known as Yorkshire Relish. The order was personally served, and he had an affidavit of a chemist who applied for one of the defendant's recipes subsequent to the order, and in reply received a recipe for Yorkshire Relish on one occasion, and on another the same thing with the words "Yorkshire Relish" struck through. These documents were similar to those on which the order was granted, and under those circumstances he asked for a writ of attachment against the defendant.

Counsel for the defendant urged upon his Lordship that his client had not intentionally been guilty of contempt of Court; if his client had done that he begged humbly to apologise.

Mr. Justice Romer: He certainly must have known, I think, that it would be no compliance with the order to send out the original circular stating amongst the recipes he was able to give that of Yorkshire Relish. It is merely colourable for him to strike out the word "relish" as if it were a blemish.

Counsel for the defendant said he was told the word "relish" was erased.

Mr. Justice Romer: It is not erased, so it is a clear breach.

Counsel for the defendant said he must tender to the Court an apology.

Mr. Justice Romer said he would give the defendant another chance. On this occasion he would accept the apology; but the defendant must understand he must obliterate the words "Yorkshire Relish" entirely from his advertisements. If the defendant disobeyed the order again he would receive short mercy. The defendant must pay the plaintiff's costs as between solicitor and client.

ROYAL BAKING-POWDER.

IN the Chancery Division of the High Court on March 4, before Mr. Justice Romer, the case of the Royal Baking-powder Company v. Wright, Crossley & Co. came on as a motion in the witness-list.

Mr. Warmington, Q.C., on behalf of the applicants, said they were a New Zealand company, and asked to have expunged from the register a trade-mark, No. 70,078, of Wright, Crossley & Co. One question was whether the applicants were aggrieved persons within the section, so as to be able to make the application. The applicants had for many years traded in nothing else than Royal Baking-powder. Their sales amounted to over a quarter of a million tins in a year. The defendants were rice-millers, and carried on a general trade in food-substances. In their list there was no reference to their own baking-powder, and the applicants' case was that it was not until the applicants had expended large sums in advertising their Royal Baking-powder that the defendants thought it would be a good thing if they sold a royal baking-powder too, and thereby got some of the benefit of the expenditure of the applicants. The defendants did not deny that their business in royal baking-powder was small, and they did not suggest that they had advertised it in any way. The defendants' account of the mark was that they had used it since 1856, and the evidence came to this—that they did not use the words "Wright, Crossley & Co." upon some bags or sacks between 1856 and 1860, but it was used for sago and chicory, no use being suggested of the words royal baking-powder.

Mr. Justice Romer asked what the object of the applicants was.

Mr. Warmington said they were rivals in the trade and were litigating in this and other courts, the respondents professing to sell "royal baking-powder" with this mark—"Wright, Crossley & Co."

Mr. Justice Romer: If you strike off the trade-mark it would not prevent them doing that.

Mr. Warmington said it would prevent the defendants using the words "trade-mark" with the "royal baking-powder," whereby they got an advantage, the applicants' trade-mark having been unfortunately struck off. If the defendants disclaimed using the mark for "royal baking-powder" he had no complaint to make, but it was registered for the whole class, which he submitted was wrong.

Mr. Sebastian said the defendants took the point his lordship had put, and said the applicants were in the same position whether the mark was on or off, and therefore all the evidence on the main question would be given under protest. The defendants made their stand on this—that the applicants were not persons aggrieved within the meaning of the Act of Parliament.

After some discussion, Mr. Justice Romer said in his opinion the applicants, looking at the whole circumstances, were not parties aggrieved within the meaning of the section. In his opinion no damage or injury could occur if the trade-mark stood. Whether the respondents had a proper trade-mark or not they were entitled to sell their goods under their own name, including baking-powder, in which they traded in this country. He held that the applicants were not persons aggrieved, and therefore dismissed the application, with costs.

SANITAS COMPANY v. SANITANTS MANUFACTURING COMPANY (LIMITED).

IN the Chancery Division on March 4, before Mr. Justice Romer,

Mr. Buckmaster said he was instructed on behalf of the defendants to move that the Registrar's minutes of the judgment given on the motion of the plaintiffs might be

varied by introducing words showing that the injunction was granted by the consent of the defendants. The action was brought by the Sanitas Company to restrain the defendants from carrying on business under the name of the Sanitants Manufacturing Company (Limited), and from passing off their goods as the plaintiffs', and from satisfying orders for sanitas by supplying their compounds. When the motion came on for hearing affidavits were read in support of the plaintiffs' case, and these were followed by affidavits for the defendants, alleging that they had never taken this name with the intent of infringing on the plaintiffs' trade, and had always been willing to give up the word "sanitants" as part of the company's name. His Lordship suggested that the defendants would be wise in assenting to a perpetual injunction, and, after some discussion as to costs, they consented to a perpetual injunction. The defendants desired to have words introduced into the order showing that it was by consent, but the plaintiffs wanted to have it appear that the injunction was granted against them.

Mr. Justice Romer: I do not see what the importance of it is.

Mr. Buckmaster: The plaintiffs attach the greatest importance to have it appear that this injunction was granted against us on our opposition.

Mr. Justice Romer: How is that untrue?

Mr. Buckmaster: It would appear then that we had asserted a right we were not entitled to. The correspondence shows that both the parties attach importance to this point.

Mr. Justice Romer: Would not it do to say "the defendants at the Bar not resisting the plaintiffs' case"? because that is really what happened. Unless there had been some kind of consent I could not have ordered the defendants to pay the costs.

After some discussion the order was settled in the way his Lordship suggested, and the costs of the motion were made costs in the action.

BOVRIL v. BOUILLON FLEET.

IN the Chancery Division on March 4, before Mr. Justice North, Mr. Macnaghten, Q.C., on behalf of the defendants, asked that the action of Bovril v. Bouillon Fleet and others might be advanced for trial. The case was one for an injunction to restrain the Bouillon Fleet Company and a number of other defendants from selling their goods in, as the plaintiffs suggested, such a manner as to lead the public to suppose it was bovril. Liberty had been given to apply to advance, and the pleadings were now completed.

Mr. Swinfen Eady, who appeared for the plaintiffs, said the case would take a considerable time, as there were a great many trade-witnesses.

Mr. Justice North: I see there are six actions. I do not think I gave leave to advance all of them.

Mr. Eady said it was important, from his point of view, that they should be heard together. They had all been set down together, and he suggested that they should be taken the first day in next sittings that his Lordship took witness actions.

Mr. Macnaghten said the cases were all pretty much the same.

Mr. Eady said there were two principal actions—those against Bouillon Fleet and Simon's Stores (Limited)—and four subsidiary ones. In reply to his Lordship, Mr. Macnaghten said he thought the first case would decide the rest.

Mr. Eady observed that the case of the second defendants was different from the rest. He understood they had a label of their own put upon the tins delivered by Bouillon Fleet. If it was a question of dividing the actions he should ask that the present application should stand over, as he had only received informal notice of the motion.

Mr. Macnaghten said he would renew the application next week.

A FOOD-TABLET DISPUTE.

IN the Chancery Division on March 4, before Mr. Justice North, Mr. Ryland moved for an injunction to restrain the defendant in the action of the Aérating Citroid Syndicate (Limited) v. Bamberg from divulging an invention which he

had made, and from selling or otherwise disposing of it, and to compel him to join the plaintiffs in applying for letters patent for the said invention.

Mr. Justice North asked how he was to do that.

Mr. Ryland said that probably, upon motion, his Lordship could not grant all that was asked; but an order could be made restraining him from divulging the invention. The invention in question was one for which provisional protection had already been obtained, and it was described as an invention for the manufacture of tea, coffee, cocoa, and other food-tablets solid in form, but soluble when subjected to the action of boiling water. An agreement had been entered into between the plaintiffs and defendant for the sale and purchase of effervescent cartridges for aerating liquids and all other inventions relating to the manufacture of aerated waters and other beverages. It was these words, "and other beverages," that the plaintiffs relied upon in the present action, as they claimed that under it they were entitled to the invention for the tea, coffee, and cocoa tablets.

The defendant, who appeared in person, argued that the agreement in question did not cover the invention for food-tablets, but related solely to the effervescent cartridges and aerating liquids, for which the company was formed. At the time the agreement was signed, the food-tablets had not entered his mind.

His Lordship said that, with the information at his disposal, he was unable to grant the injunction asked for. Costs of the motion would be costs in the action.

THE APOTHECARIES ACT.

ON March 7, at the Blackburn County Court, the Apothecaries' Society sued J. Tempest, of Oswaldtwistle, for 20*l.* for practising as an apothecary without being registered under the Apothecaries Act. Mr. Slinger, for the Society, stated that the defendant held an American diploma which was not recognised by the Medical or Apothecaries' Societies, and that he adopted the artifices of a quack in regard to pamphlets, handbills, &c. Defendant raised objection to the proceedings on the ground that under the Apothecaries Act he was entitled to twenty-one days' notice of proceedings; but Mr. Slinger said that under the Public Bodies Protection Act, 1893, the section requiring notice to be given had been repealed. Defendant then maintained that as "a qualified physician and surgeon" he was exempt. Mr. Slinger said he had the words "Dr. Tempest" over his door, and a witness gave evidence that defendant had treated him for alleged heart-affection. His Honour, referring to one of defendant's handbills, asked him the meaning of the letters "F.C.S.M." which followed his name. The defendant said they meant "Fellow of the College of Safe Medicine," London, and added that it was a chartered college for botanic physicians. Mr. Slinger maintained that even if the defendant were a physician and surgeon he could not dispense medicine unless he were registered under the Act; but the defendant claimed that being a physician and surgeon he could legally treat a disorder or cure an accident. He handed to his Honour a document purporting to be issued by a chartered college; but the Judge said it was nothing of the kind, and that if defendant acted as an apothecary he must be properly registered. Defendant continued to argue the legality of his proceedings, and claimed that as a physician and surgeon he was entitled to be registered. His Honour: Then go and get registered. Judgment was given for the plaintiffs, but leave to appeal was granted.

SWISS CHEMIST'S CLAIM

AT Margate County Court, on March 3, Mr. Harold Walker, chemist and druggist, St. Moritz, Switzerland, sued Mr. Bell, of St. Peter's, near Broadstairs, for 9*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* for drugs and other goods supplied to him in 1896.

In examination, the defendant stated that in June, 1896, while holidaying in the Engadine, two of his children contracted typhoid fever while staying at the Hôtel de le Platz, near St. Moritz, and he remained there for five months. He dealt with Mr. Harold Walker, and, as was the custom of the country, he paid for what he had through the hotel account. He left Switzerland at the end of October, and before leaving paid the hotel bills, but unfortunately he had not

kept all his receipts. His contention was that he had paid for all the goods supplied to him both by the plaintiff and the other tradesmen through the hotel account. Before he left the hotel he went to the plaintiff's establishment and was particular to inquire if there was anything owing, and was told distinctly that there was not. Since the first application, 20*f.* 25*c.*, which the hotel-keeper admitted receiving, had been deducted from the account.

Cross-examined, the defendant said his chemist's bill varied from 1*l.* to 3*l.* a week, and the full items were given in the hotel bill. Frequently the hotel-keeper would say, "The bill is rather heavy this week, but that is on account of the pharmacy."

Counsel for plaintiff raised the question whether the hotel proprietor had authority to receive the money. He pointed out that there was his affidavit that he did not receive it. It was clear that Mr. Walker had not had the money, but if the hotel-keeper did receive it he had no authority to do so, and that he had not handed it over if it had come into his possession.

His Honour entered judgment for the defendant, saying that in his opinion the money was paid to the hotel-keeper with his account, and adding that he was the accredited agent of the plaintiff.

COUNTY COURT CASES.

CHEMISTS IN COURT.

AT the Westminster Court, on Tuesday, Judge Lumley Smith, Q.C., made orders under judgment-summons against a defendant named Parker, described as a chemist, and who said he was employed as a manager by Messrs. Lewis & Burrows (Limited); against a chemist named White, said to be living in Charing Cross Road; and against a defendant named Cox, described as the proprietor of a preparation for the skin.

His Honour also heard the case of *Boutall v. Ball*, in which the plaintiffs, a firm of manufacturing chemists, sued the defendant, who carries on business at Newcastle Street, to recover payment in respect of goods supplied in the way of trade. Evidence was given to the effect that the goods were ordered and delivered, and that some of them were still upon the defendant's premises. The defendant appeared, and said he never gave the order for the goods, and no one had any authority to do so on his behalf. His Honour said he was not satisfied that the plaintiffs had made out their case, and as the defendant absolutely denied ever having given the order, there must be a non-suit, but no costs.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re REUBEN LEONARD GIBSON, 27 Swan Street, Loughborough, Chemist and Druggist and Dentist.

THE liabilities herein amount to 435*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*; and assets consisting of cash with solicitor 10*l.*; stock-in-trade 23*l.*; trade fixtures and fittings 30*l.*; furniture 30*l.*; five shares in Loughborough (Non-Political) Club Company, 2*l.* 10*s.*; book debts, good, 37*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*; making 133*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, less 7*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* for preference claims, which leaves 125*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, and shows a deficiency of 309*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* From the Official Receiver's observations it appears the receiving order was made on the debtor's petition. He has been in business in Loughborough as a chemist and druggist and also as a dentist for the last twenty-six years. He only had about 30*l.* capital to start with, and for many years he seems to have earned sufficient to maintain himself and his family; but there is no evidence that he ever saved any money, and for some time past the business has been carried on at a loss, and the stock has got smaller and smaller till there is now very little left. The only books regularly kept have been a debtor's ledger and day-book.

Re WATSON PERRIN WILLIAM BRADSHAW, now living at Maidstone (Kent), and formerly in business at 196 Norwood Road, London, Analytical Chemist.

THIS debtor, particulars of whose failure have been published in the *C. & D.*, was again examined at the Maidstone Bankruptcy Court on March 2. The Official Receiver stated that debtor had not filed any deficiency account, but

had simply sent in a copy of his books, which did not show where the deficiency had gone.

The Debtor: Was there ever a bankrupt who could?

The Official Receiver elicited from debtor that he had disposed of certain pawn-tickets for 5*s.* Debtor said he thought he was justified in doing so, as he could not starve. The Official Receiver observed that bankrupt had not given him certain information which he required, and he should not care for the examination to be closed until he got that information. He had been an unsatisfactory bankrupt all through. Debtor was informed that if he did not comply with the Official Receiver's request by March 30, the examination would be adjourned *sine die*.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Lukyn, Percy Christopher (and another), 53 Topping Street, Blackpool, dental surgeon. Trustee, J. Townley Trotter, Manchester, chartered accountant. Dated, February 22; filed, March 1. Liabilities unsecured, 129*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*; estimated net assets, 100*l.* Composition of 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, payable by equal weekly payments of 2*d.*, commencing on February 12, 1898, secured by an assignment by debtor's wife of the household furniture, &c., upon trust, to realise in case of default. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£ s. d.
Bennett, W., London	25 0 0
Payne, G., Manchester	52 0 0
Walker, —, Preston	10 0 0

Macpherson, James, 108 Stamford Street, late of 1 Portland Place, Stalybridge, surgeon. Trustee, John R. Norman, Stamford Street, Stalybridge, estate agent, &c. Dated, March 2; filed, March 4. Secured creditors, 50*l.*; liabilities unsecured, 2,169*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*; estimated net assets, 1,297*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£ s. d.
Allen, E., Stalybridge	18 0 0
Brown, E., Stalybridge	18 0 0
Chadwick, W., jun., Stalybridge	30 0 0
Cooke, J. A., Stalybridge	26 0 0
Ferris & Co., Bristol	13 0 0
Greenwood, J. W., Stalybridge	20 0 0
Hall, M., Stalybridge	19 0 0
Heginbotham, J., Stalybridge	26 0 0
Ince, J., Stalybridge	28 0 0
Innes, D., Stalybridge	25 0 0
Kenyon, J. W., Stalybridge	15 0 0
Macpherson, Mrs., Aberdeen	1,700 0 0
Newton, J. A., Stalybridge	55 0 0
Sykes, R., & Sons (Limited), Stalybridge	13 0 0
Warlow, P., Stalybridge	15 0 0
Wood & Co., Stalybridge	12 0 0

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Balkwill, A. P., Hunt, F. W., and Weary, C. T., under the style of Balkwill & Co., Plymouth and Stoke Devonport, chemists and druggists; so far as regards C. T. Weary.

Cook, J. W., and Renny, E. G., under the style of Cook & Renny, Colchester, medical practitioners.

Godwin, J. T., and Masten, C. O., under the style of J. L. Godwin & Co., Worthing, grocers, provision merchants, and patent-medicine vendors.

Hallwright, M., and Rose, L., under the style of Hallwright & Rose, Edgbaston, surgeons and general medical practitioners.

Smith, J. W., and Smith, A., under the style of J. W. & Albert Smith, Denbigh Pharmacy, Archer Street, Westbourne Grove, W., chemists and druggists.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Bourke, Isidore M'Silhiam, Nevern Square, Earl's Court, S.W., late Redcliffe Square, West Kensington, W., doctor of medicine.

ADJUDICATIONS.

Elliot, George Stokoe, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, physician and surgeon.

M'Donald, Mark William, Waterloo, surgeon.

Meredith, Joseph Edwin, Aberdare, chemist's assistant, late licensed victualler.

Rycroft, James, Great Grimsby, artificial-tooth manufacturer.

Westminster Wisdom.

THE PHARMACY BILL : SECOND READING.

The Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill has been very neatly put through its second reading. The House of Commons was engaged on Monday evening with the Benefices Bill up



THE HON. W. F. D. SMITH, M.P., THE CHAMPION OF THE PHARMACY BILL.

to 7 o'clock, and from that hour till midnight had been engaged in discussing some votes for Scotch and Irish objects. The opportunity came immediately after 12.



Boy: Local Guv, Benefices, Shop Hours, Adulteration, Pharmacy Bill. What'll you take, sir?

FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: What's this Pharmacy Bill about, my boy?

Boy: Read it, sir.

Second reading accordingly.

Mr. Smith intimated that he moved the second reading of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill, upon which Mr. Crilly (member for North Mayo) objected. Mr. E. J. C. Morton

(member for Devonport) appealed to the hon. member to withdraw his objection. He felt a deep interest in the Bill. It affected his constituents, and it was in the interests of the Irish people. For the latter statement we hope Mr. Morton will be forgiven. His appeal failed. Mr. Crilly again repeated, "I object." Then the unexpected happened. Dr. Tanner, the champion objector, supported the appeal to his honourable friend to withdraw his objection, assuring him that it was a measure which would do justice all round. Mr. Crilly, somewhat reluctantly as it seemed, abandoned his irreconcilable attitude, and the Bill went through. It is down for the Committee stage on Thursday, March 17.

To Dr. Tanner is unquestionably due the success of the Pharmaceutical Society so far; and that stern champion of Parliamentary rights was won to acquiescence and advocacy by the skill and forethought of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, who interviewed the member for Mid-Cork on the Thursday night previously, when it was hoped the Bill would come on.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF CARBOLIC ACID.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. Sam Woods, the member for Walthamstow, asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he was aware that carbolic acid was allowed to be sold in mineral-water and other bottles without being labelled as poison, and that the Pharmaceutical Society had recommended on three occasions—February, 1882, February, 1886, and October, 1888—to the Privy Council that carbolic acid should be scheduled as a poison; and whether the Government would at an early date give effect to the promise of the Privy Council in this matter.

Sir Matthew Ridley said in reply: I understand that the Privy Council, while not thinking it expedient to include carbolic acid in the schedule to the Pharmacy Act, are of opinion that regulations should be made with regard to its sale and the sale of other poisonous substances, and, in accordance with the promise given, have prepared a Bill for the purpose, which will shortly be introduced.

ARSENIC IN THE VINEGAR-CASK.

Major Rasch on Tuesday asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the vinegar stated to have held arsenic, supplied to the troops at Hulsea, was a portion of the vinegar obtained by contract for the Government; and, if so, who were the contractors.

Mr. Powell Williams, in reply, said: As this supply of undoubtedly poisoned vinegar is still the subject of investigation by a Court of Inquiry, I will reserve any statement about it beyond saying that the cask affected was one of six purchased by the regimental canteen from the same firm, and that the other five were quite innocuous. I am glad to be able to say that all the persons affected have completely recovered.

GLYCERINATED CALF-LYMPH FOR SCOTLAND.

In the House of Commons on March 4, Dr. Farquharson asked the Lord Advocate whether the proposal to supply glycerinated calf-vaccine lymph under certain conditions in England would be extended to Scotland.

The Lord Advocate: I am not aware what are the proposals referred to as having been made in England, but I understand that the Local Government Board are now considering arrangements for supplying glycerinated calf-lymph in England. The question as to the provision of a supply to Scotland will be duly considered in connection with this arrangement.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON BILL.

The Bill for making the University of London a teaching as well as an examining corporation passed its second reading in the House of Lords on Friday of last week. It is likely that when the London faculties get organised, the majority of medical practitioners of England will become qualified by degrees at this University.

THE PETROLEUM COMMITTEE.

The Committee "to inquire into and report upon the sufficiency of the law relating to the keeping, selling, using, and conveying of petroleum and other inflammable liquids,

and the precautions to be adopted for the prevention of accidents with petroleum-lamps," is to be reappointed.

FACE-GUARDS IN AERATED-WATER FACTORIES.

Mr. Tennant has given notice of a question to the Home Secretary to be put on Friday, March 11, asking whether the exemption of labellers in aerated-water factories from the special rules requiring them to wear face-guards, is in accordance with the recommendations of the Departmental Committee, and calling attention to the case of a boy at Brigg, who is said to have lost an eye while labelling through a bottle bursting.

ANALYSTS DIFFER.

In the Commons on Thursday Mr. Duckworth had given notice of his intention to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that, in the course of a fortnight, three separate analyses of the analyst of the Islington Vestry were proved to be inaccurate when the samples dealt with were referred to Somerset House; and whether the Local Government Board will take any steps to inquire into mistakes which so seriously affect the tradesmen against whom summonses were issued upon such mistaken certificates. The honourable gentleman was not, however, in his place when the question was reached, and it consequently stands postponed.

Commercial Notes.

AMERICAN ALKALI.

The Solvay Process Company are now turning out 150 tons of soda-ash daily at their works in Detroit, Mich. They have the machinery in position and stock on hand to increase their production to 300 tons per day if they should want to.

CAPE COLONY SPIRIT-DUTY.

An Act has come into force at the Cape by which the Excise duty on spirits distilled from other material than wine, grape-juice, grapes, and husks of grapes or raisins, the produce of the colony, is increased from 2s. to 3s. per gallon.

U.S.A. CITRIC ACID.

Californians have long said that the time would come when they would supply the United States with oil of lemon and citric acid made from fruit which has not passed the Golden Gate. Their prophecies are realised: one citric-acid factory has been working for some time, and another will be opened shortly in San Diego.

TRADE WITH COLOMBIA.

British traders who do, or think of doing, trade with Colombia, in South America, should keep in mind the fact that goods for the interior must be packed for mule-transport and, as far as possible, in equal loads, otherwise the goods may be kept waiting until each package can be paired, and exorbitant special rates may be charged for transport.

SERVIAN TRADE.

The prospects of Servian trade are discouraging, as the wheat-harvest of 1897 was almost a total failure. Wholesale merchants in the large towns are said to find much difficulty in collecting their outstanding debts in the interior, and British firms will be well advised to exercise more than their usual prudence in the matter of credit. Under the head of chemicals, &c., the Servian imports in 1896 amounted to 52,197L, an increase of 2,000L over 1895 of which Austria-Hungary sent 33,277L, and Germany 11,647L. British trade consisted chiefly of soda, ammonia, and varnish, valued at 2,237L. Chemicals and various drugs came to 10,226L, a falling-off of 4,355L, and medicines and chemical preparations to 12,468L. For the first nine months of 1897 the importation of drugs, chemicals, and colours was valued at 39,575L (country of origin not stated). In view of the depressed state of the country and the financial difficulties prevailing, no immediate improvement is looked for. British trade with Servia is restricted to the importation by the latter country of British produce and manufactures, and, strange as it may appear, no Servian produce is exported to the United Kingdom.

INDIARUBBER.

Fears are sometimes expressed that the supply of rubber from Pará will stop some day, but our Consul at Pará is not of that opinion. Writing at the end of December, he says that the majority of authorities on the subject are of opinion that there is absolutely no fear for the exhaustion of the supply of rubber in the Amazonian States. In some cases this produce is transported as much as 6,000 miles before it reaches Pará, but it is found that the prolonged transportation improves the rubber, so that when it arrives at its destination it sells for higher prices than that collected nearer the mouth of the river.

Our Consul at Zanzibar remarks that Africa may be said, roughly speaking, to be full of rubber from Zambezi to the Sahara. Hitherto the rubber brought down to the coast has been mainly collected by natives, who, under the pressure of hunger, have gone into the forests, tapped the vines, and taken the balls thus extracted (one the size of a cricket-ball represents about a day's work) to the nearest Arab or Indian; but the German firm of Hansing & Co. have set the example of collecting the rubber in a systematic manner, and it is expected that in a few years a regular and better supply will be obtained.

U.S. CUSTOMS DECISIONS.

Traders in the United States are continually having disputes with the customs authorities as to the classification of goods, and it is interesting for the outsider (although he does not pay the piper) to watch the decisions that are come to. We note, amongst those recently recorded, that Messrs. Dodge & Olcott protested against the Board of Appraisers finding "camphor oil is the crude article from which refined camphor is distilled," and, therefore, classified it as a distilled oil. The Court of Appeals has sustained the decision.

From reports of a recent meeting of the drug-examiners at New York, we gather that there has been a lack of uniformity in appraising various drugs, especially those which have been refined or otherwise treated so as to increase their market value. The wholesale druggists' view of the matter was put before the Board of Trade and Transportation by Mr. J. H. Stallman (Stallman & Fulton), who states that the appraisers have made a wholesale raid on the free list, imposing a duty on a large number of articles known and classified as crude drugs. While the importers can accommodate themselves to any rates of duty uncertainties are deplorable, although they must be expected at every tariff-tinkering, as long as experts of the different trades are not consulted. The Drug Section of the Board advocate the founding of a permanent board of practical men as the only thing to overcome the evil.

PHOSPHATE-FERTILISERS

The business of manufacturing fertilisers from phosphate rock in the United States is a flourishing one, the shipments from Charleston, So. Carolina (which port does the bulk of the trade), in 1897 being 374,000 tons, compared with 257,715 tons in the previous year. The trade is in the hands of capitalists and subject to many risks, a large amount of money being required in manufacturing and handling the stuff, which must be put out at a venture, dependent for profitable returns on the extent and value of crops. The principal chemicals imported to carry on this business at Charleston during the year ending August 31, 1897, amounted to 107,828 tons, valued at \$810,941, showing an increase on last season of 48,890 tons. They consisted of:—Kainite, 42,349 tons; brimstone, 8,900 tons; muriate of potash, 5,289 tons; sulphur pyrites, 20,570 tons; nitrate of soda, 1,095 tons; manure salt, 718 tons; sulphate of potash, 121 tons; sulphur ore, 28,786 tons. In addition to the above, Savannah also imported 120,000 tons and Port Royal 35,000 tons during the season, which usually lasts from October to April. The present mining capacity of the United States is equal to 1,000,000 tons of phosphate rock per year, and it is capable of indefinite development. The bulk of the pyrites and sulphur ore came from Spain and Portugal; the brimstone from Italy; the kainite, potash and manure salt from Germany; and the nitrate from Chili; little or nothing was imported direct from Great Britain. Florida has become a dangerous rival to South Carolina in the phosphate business, and the competition of Algiers and Tunis is material in affecting prices in foreign markets for American shipments with which the African mines compete!

Trade Report

Notice to Retail Buyers.

It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk, and, for crude drugs, without charges.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., March 10.

BUSINESS—NONE,” was the laconic and Toby-esque summing-up of the state of trade which an experienced and respected merchant gave to one of our reporters on 'Change yesterday. It hits the general feeling exactly, so far as drugs and other raw produce are concerned; but a good amount of business is passing in chemicals. Speculative inquiry is practically *nil*, and fewer fluctuations than usual have to be noted this week:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower
Atropine	Acid, citric	Ammo sulphate
Ergot	Acid, tartaric	Cloves
Mace	Ammonia carbonate	Coriander
Opium	Cream of tartar	Ginger
Quillaia	Glycerine	Gum animi
Wax, bees'	Oil, castor	Oil, wintergreen
	Oil, olive	Pepper, black
	Oil, peppermint	Quinine (in second hands)
	Phenacetin	
	Potash carbonate	
	Sulphonol	
	Tamarinds	

Cod-liver oil may be reckoned easier. Java quinine has arrived in London (10,000 oz. only), and will be put on the market as soon as our leading quinologist has drawn up his report upon it. We are able to state that the Iodine Syndicate are prepared to reduce the price of the crude iodine to 4d. per oz. if the outstanding manufacturer does not pool his product.

CABLEGRAMS

FROM HAMBURG we hear by telegram this afternoon that refined camphor is dull of sale at 238m. per 100 kilos. Agar-agar is firmer, and not to be had under 270m. per 100 kilos. Wormseed is scarce at 40m. per 100 kilos.

* * * * *

OUR BERGEN CORRESPONDENT, cabling at 11.5 A.M. to-day, reports that the weather continues favourable, but the Lofoten fishings are not promising; at Romsdal they are better. The catch so far amounts to 7,258,000 fish, as compared with 9,503,000 at the corresponding date last year, and the yield of oil 4,300 barrels, against 6,350. The market is firm at 65s. per barrel, f.o.b.

* * * * *

OUR NEW YORK CABLEGRAM (dated March 10, 2.35 P.M.) is to the following effect:—Opium is declining, and sellers now accept \$2 92½; golden-seal (hydrastis) root is fairly firm at 42½c. per lb. New-crop jalap is arriving and offered at 10½c. Honduras sarsaparilla is firm at 31½c., with an upward tendency. HGH oil of peppermint is advancing; to-day's price is \$1.15, and round lots of prime oil in bulk have sold at 95c. Oil of wintergreen sells at \$1.05 per lb.

* * * * *

OUR SMYRNA CORRESPONDENT telegraphs on Wednesday afternoon that 80 cases have been sold to speculators at lower prices—viz., 8s. 4d. per lb., f.o.b. Smyrna, for Holland grades, 7s. 9d. for Karahissar, and 7s. 7d. for current talequale. Our correspondent again cables to-day stating that on the previous night an unexpected and severe frost came on, the immediate result being that speculators began to buy, the market became excited, and prices went up 4d. per lb. We also learn from Constantinople that the price there has also advanced 6d. per lb.

A new kind of artificial musk has been placed on the market by Messrs. A. & M. Zimmerman. It **Artificial Musk.** differs from the already patented product in being made by oxidation, and not by nitrification. There are two qualities—one 20s. per oz., suitable for soap-makers, the other 60s., which is best for perfumers.

A Batavia gentleman, writing just before Christmas, adopts a jubilant tone regarding the rise in the unit value then, and says “This is due alone to the starting of two **Too Previous.** quinine-factories in Java, which have for the moment broken the back of the German ring, who for the last four years have made the price just what they liked.” Alas! that time should bring changes, and so rapidly.

We hear from Amsterdam that some of the principal planters in the neighbourhood of Bandoeng **Java Quinine.** have decided to erect a quinine-factory for the production of the alkaloid on a large scale, and they have appointed a commission to carry out their project. The proposed factory is in addition to the quinine-works in Bandoeng, to which we referred in January.

The first forecast of the rape-seed crop of the Punjab for 1897-98 says that the area estimated to have been sown with **Rape-seed.** rape-seed up to the end of November is returned as 1,169,400 acres, as compared with 515,300 acres last year. The crop last year was very poor. The rainfall has been very favourable this year, except in Sialkot, Gujranwala, Hazara, and parts of Peshawur.

What is done with cardamom husks? Parcels appear in Mincing Lane occasionally and seldom fail to find a buyer at a penny or so per lb., but much more of them **Cardamom Husks.** are bought on the Continent, where the husks have a distinct marketable value, and are now sent regularly there from Ceylon. In grading the cardamoms the splits are utilised for this purpose after seedling them. Formerly the husks were thrown away, but for some time back there has been a demand for them. What for?

The old, old question of the municipalisation of the docks of London came up at the last dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce, where they prefer the word **London Dock** “trust” to “municipalisation,” but we hope they **Charges.** mean the same things so far as reform is concerned, which is really wanted. There was nothing new in the conversation which the diners had. Mr. A. Devitt, of Messrs. Lewis & Peat, voiced the sentiments of “the Lane” by saying that London charges compared unfavourably with those of foreign ports. Could the dock companies not afford to do work at a cheaper rate than at present? Hundreds of thousands of tons of goods did not come here because of the heavy charges. There were also an enormous number of charges in regard to various trades which were entirely unnecessary, while the wharfingers had a trade union under which they combined themselves not to work under a certain charge. Mr. H. W. Price, of Messrs. Price, Hickman & Co., agreed with these sentiments, saying that the trade of the port was becoming less every year, and the sooner the matter was righted the better for all concerned. Mr. Mowat (Chairman) remarked that a trust could only be formed by co-operation of all interested. Amalgamation would mean a large saving in the expenses of administration. Of course; but in the meantime goods which formerly came to London go to Hamburg, because they get quicker and cheaper service there.

ACID, CITRIC.—Firmer, and sellers have withdrawn quotations for forward delivery this week. The spot prices are 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0¾d. for English crystals and 1s. 0½d. for foreign.

ACID, PHOSPHORIC.—A small convention in this article has been formed, with the result that after to-day buyers will have to pay 4d. more per lb. for the syrupy acid.

ACID, PYROGALLIC.—As the purchasing season for this is now commencing we may mention that the price for Schering's in 1-oz. bottles is 12s. per lb. in original cases (or 11s. 4d. for 1,000-oz. lot). Ordinary acid is 9s. per lb. in 1-oz. bottles.

ACID, SALICYLIC.—Ordinary commercial is 1s. 4d. to 1s. 10d. per lb., according to the nature of the package, and physiologically pure is 3s. 8d. per lb. in 2-cwt. lots.

ACID, TANNIC.—B.P. acid (levis) is obtainable in 1-cwt. lots at 1s. 9d. per lb.

ACID, TARTARIC.—Inclines to firmness; 1s. 0½d. for forward-delivery has been refused by sellers, who want 1s. 0½d. for foreign crystals, and 1s. 1d. for English on the spot.

AMERICAN DRUGS, VARIOUS.—The following are some current quotations for American drugs in wholesale quantities:—Wild-cherry bark, 3d. per lb. c.i.f.; sassafras bark, 4½d. c.i.f.; Simarubra bark, 5½d. c.i.f.; Euonymus bark, from root, 8d. c.i.f.; damiana-leaves, 8d. c.i.f.; elecampane-root, 3d. c.i.f.; kavakava, 9d. spot; serpentine, 1s. 2d. net.

AMMONIA CARBONATE.—The German makers have stiffened their prices owing to the very firm position of the raw material, and 28s. per cwt. is quoted in Germany for carbonate, which is 1s. to 2s. higher than the English prices.

ATROPINE.—Owing to the scarcity of belladonna and of scopolia-roots, the Convention have raised their prices by 1s. 5d. per oz., and to-day the quotations are as follows:—

	Under 16 oz. and	16 oz. over	75-oz. lots
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Pure atropine per oz.	16 5	16 3	16 1
Neutral sulphate ,	13 11	13 9	13 7
B.P. sulphate ,	14 1	13 11	13 9

These prices apply to atropine in tins. For 1-oz. bottles 1½d. each extra is charged.

BENZOIN.—There has been a fair inquiry this week for Siam and good Sumatra, but we understand that no business has resulted.

BUCHU.—A small business has been done for export at 4d. to 4½d. per lb. for good round leaves. Twenty-one bales have arrived from Cape Town this week.

CAFFEINE.—There has been a little more inquiry for pure crystal at 13s. 4d. per lb., in 1-cwt. lots, and 10s. 6d. per lb. for citrate.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—A quiet but steady market. Business has been done this week at 89s. to 90s. per cwt. c.i.f. for Japanese. There is no change in the spot quotation. Business is also reported in Chinese at 84s. 6d. c.i.f. for March-April steamer shipment.

CANTHARIDES.—Chinese flies are very scarce. The stock at Hong Kong and Canton is estimated at 20 piculs. Quotations on the spot vary, 1s. 1d. per lb. being the lowest, but that is merely a nominal price, since none is obtainable. Hungarian flies are 1s. 9d. per lb.

CARDAMOMS.—Ceylon advices, dated February 9, show a quiet market. The usual buyers for the Indian market are not purchasing. Nothing new to report so far as London is concerned, except that the *Clan Forbes* has brought 76 packages from Colombo.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—It is understood that the recent arrivals have gone into consumption, and although sales, believed to be small, have been made this week below 20s. per cwt., sellers generally want 20s. to 22s. per cwt. "spot," according to the age of the bark, and 19s. c.i.f. terms.

CINCHONA.—The Amsterdam cinchona-auctions, to be held on March 31, will consist of 7,500 bales manufacturing-bark, and 293 bales and 125 cases of druggists' bark. The stock in first hand in Amsterdam on March 8 consisted of 2,043 packages of Government culture, and 13,223 packages private culture, including the above-mentioned quantities.

COCAINE is decidedly firmer, and some say that the price may go up, but no transactions of importance have occurred since our last report, and the market is quiet. The conven-

tion-price for hydrochlorate is 10s. per oz., and second hands 9s. 6d. per oz., in each case for 100-oz. tins. Eight packages of crude alkaloid have arrived per *Medway* from Callao.

COCA-LEAVES.—Good green Truxillo leaves are offered in small quantities at 7d. per lb. on the spot in 1 cwt. bales.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—Is firm at 75s. 6d. to 76s. for crystals and 77s. 6d. to 78s. 6d. for powder on the spot. The quotation from Bordeaux is 73s. per cwt. net. f.o.b.

ERGOT OF RYE.—The market is bare of new Spanish, and only old ergot is obtainable at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per lb. There is a demand for the new drug, and 1s. 6d. per lb. is mentioned as its price.

GENTIAN-ROOT.—First-quality root is offered at 21s. 6d. per cwt., f.o.b. terms.

GLYCERINE.—Crude is firmly held by the English manufacturers, and higher prices are asked. We hear that 26s. 10s. per ton has been refused this week. From 50s. to 51s. per cwt. is asked for English double-distilled s.g. 1260.

GUM ARABIC.—Advices from Egypt state that the stocks of gum in Berber are insignificant, and the holders in Suakin during last month raised their prices about 15 per cent. There seems little prospect at present of easier terms being obtained for Soudan gums. A small business has been done on the London market in so-called insoluble Persian gum at 16s. to 17s. for fair sorts.

GUM CHICLE.—A large business has been done lately in New York at advanced prices. At present 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per lb. is quoted in London, but the use of the article here is limited.

GUMS (VARNISH).—The sales were held to-day, when kauri was the gum in chief demand, and it sold at unchanged rates; gum animi went for from 5s. to 10s. per cwt. less than the last sale-prices. Fine copal maintained its value, and dammar was neglected.

HELLEBORE is in small supply. Foreign powder is offered at 24s., f.o.b., and English-ground at 30s. per cwt. on the spot.

INDIGO.—The periodical sales commenced in London to-day, and are going well at slightly higher prices.

IODINE.—Although the market is perfectly steady here it is quite different in Valparaiso. There the dispute with the outstanding manufacturer, referred to in our last report, had not been settled when the last mail left. The Iquique Committee, or Convention, has declared its intention of reducing the price of iodine to 4d. per oz. as soon as the Convention is able to complete its exporting arrangements, so that all the products of the outstanding manufacturer may be effectually boycotted, until he complies with the Convention's demands. The fact that the manufacturer is understood to be well backed appears to be accountable for the delay in coming to a settlement, and it is not improbable that the threatened reduction will ere long be intimated. We may add, however, that few on the London market know that the Convention have gone so far as they have done. On the other hand, our inquiries reveal the fact that the firm to whom the outside iodine was shipped, have none to sell.

IPECACUANHA.—Quiet, at last week's prices—viz., 8s. per lb. for Rio and 6s. 3d. to 6s. 6d. per lb. for Cartagena root. An arrival of 34 sacks of Cartagena root in Hamburg is recorded, and small parcels continue to arrive here.

JALAP.—For good sound Vera Cruz 6d. per lb. is asked on the spot. We understand that the new crop arriving in New York shows poor damp tubers.

JUNIPER-BERRIES firmly held in Italy, at 8s. 6d. to 9s. per cwt., f.o.b. The stock of good, sound berries is small. The London market is quiet.

MASTIC is in fair supply, but little demand. Good clean pale tear may be had at from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per lb.

MENTHOL.—In consequence of the sale of Japanese in auction last week at 6d. per lb. below the regular quotations the market has been slightly depressed, and business is almost *nil*, but we hear of one transaction at 6s 7½d. per lb. for fair white crystals. We believe it would be difficult to buy in any considerable quantity at less than 7s. per lb.

OIL, BERGAMOT, is firmly held at 8s. to 8s. 6d. per lb., f.o.b. Messina. Buyers here do not care to pay such a high price, and are holding off.

OIL, CAJUPUT.—A parcel of 750 bottles recently imported oil is offered in Amsterdam. Privately, the market is quiet at 4s. 3d. per bottle.

OIL, CANANGA.—It is reported from Amsterdam that this oil is in good demand. Last week 72 bottles of good quality oil sold at 12s. 6d. to 13s. 4d. Poor oil is unsaleable.

OIL, CASTOR.—Best Italian medicinal oil is firm at 4*1*/₂d. per lb. on the spot. French oil, for forward delivery, is also firm, and, if anything, higher, at 2*4*/₅d. 15s. per ton. The renewed outbreak of the plague in Bombay is said to be affecting the article.

OIL, COD LIVER.—The London market has been slightly easier, chiefly on account of absence of specific information from Norway, but it has become a little firmer to-day. Prices are unchanged, and no transactions of importance have occurred since our last. Our Bergen correspondent admirably sums up the state of affairs in a letter dated March 5. He says:—

I consider it rather a dangerous matter to enter into details as to the future position of the oil, as nothing is more fluctuating and incalculable than a fishery. As I have formerly reported, the fish are fatter, and the liver of a better capacity than last year, as the following average figures show. This year 300 to 400 fish yield one hectolitre (about a barrel) of oil, last year 320 to 420 were required, and, in 1896, from 360 to 460 fish for the same quantity. If we get a small catch on the whole this year it may happen that the quantity of steam-refined medicinal oil will not be large, in which case the prices are expected to remain steady. Any considerable raising of the price seems at present to be excluded. To-day's reports from Lofoten, where the best of the season is still on, and where the fishing does not come to a close before the end of this month, are decidedly more favourable, and so far it cannot be said that the catch there has fallen off. It is the Northern and outside districts which are considered a failure. The Romsdal fishing has been good. The weather everywhere is splendid. Prices are unchanged. The exports up to date have been 1,318 barrels against 801 barrels at the same time last year.

The comparative absence of consuming as well as speculative buyers is noted in London, and on that point our Bergen correspondent remarks: "For the time there does not seem to be any chance for buying on speculation."

OIL, EUCALYPTUS, is in good demand, at 1s. to 2s. 6d. per lb., according to quality and brand. It may be noted that the lower-priced oils rarely contain eucalyptol, and are not considered suitable for medicinal purposes.

OIL, LEMON, is decidedly easier. From 3s. 9d. to 4s. will buy good oil on the spot, and Messina holders are willing to shade prices for forward delivery. It is now felt that the recent boom was scarcely warranted.

OIL, OLIVE.—Reports from Messina state that the market is still dominated by the demand from Italy, and ruling prices permit of little business with other countries. High prices have been current, and there seems no probability of a decline. In Spanish oils the market is easier owing to free arrivals. Malaga is offered at 3*1*/₂l. 10s. to 3*2*l.; and Seville at 3*1*/₂l. 5s. to 3*2*l., c.i.f. H.M. Consul at Naples, in a report on the trade of that district, states that the British Admiralty have caused no small stir in the oil trade by issuing invitations for tenders for over 2,000 tons of olive oil. As this is almost the entire stock of Gallipoli, so large a demand has naturally caused a boom, and prices, which have risen steadily since 1893, are now higher still. Nearly half of the total exports from Gallipoli during 1897 has been taken up by North Italian customers, whose other usual sources of supply (notably Greece) failed them during the latter half of the year. As regards the crop, almost up to the last moment the appearance of the fruit on the trees justified the expectation that from one-fourth to a third of an average oil-crop might be gathered; but when the olives came to be crushed they mostly proved only skin and stones, the pulp having been destroyed by the worm. The yield of oil was, therefore, almost nil, and such an utter failure has, perhaps, never been known.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—The spot quotation for Japanese dementhrolised oil is 3s. 1*1*/₂d. per lb. The parities for arrival

are much above the London values. Distillers of Mitcham black quote 22s. per lb. and white 40s. American oils are a trifle better. H.G.H. oil has been more inquired for this week, and 5s. 6d. is the general quotation, at which business has been done. Wayne County is obtainable at 3s. 6d. per lb.

OIL, WINTERGREEN.—Is now obtainable at the reduced figure of 5s. per lb. net on the spot in cases of 6 to 10 lb. tins.

OPIUM.—The London market is dull, but to-day's cable advices have given it a better tone, yet prices are unchanged, good to fine soft shipping being quoted at 11s. to 12s.; seconds, 8s. 3d. to 10s.; good to fine Smyrna, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; finest Persian at 9s. 6d. to 10s. 3d. per lb. Our Smyrna correspondent, writing on February 25, states that good weather had prevailed and put an end to all speculation on that market. Firm holders, in order to transact business, made concessions asked for, as they were undersold, but they were too late, and several important orders have been cancelled. The only sale of the week is 2 cases Yerli talequale at the parity of 8s. 2d. per lb., f.o.b. Smyrna. Another Smyrna correspondent, after stating that lower prices were then expected, adds that the arrivals of opium since June 18 amount to 3,276 cases against 2,220 at the same period of last year. Smyrna stock, 2,891 cases; Constantinople, 732 cases. At Constantinople there has been more movement, 50 cases having changed hands at last week's quotations. It is said that manufacturers there are not disposed to make concessions. It will be seen from our cablegrams that an unexpected change has occurred in the Turkey markets.

ORRIS-ROOT.—Florentine, extra white selected, is offered at 34s. 6d. per cwt., ditto prime 31s. 6d., small white 31s., and seconds 28s., Verona from 19s. to 23s., according to quality—all f.o.b. Leghorn. The *Himalaya*, from Marseilles, has brought 123 bags.

PHENACETIN.—The nominal quotation is 4s. per lb. for crystals and powder, and rather firm at that.

POTASH, CARBONATE.—The stock of Russian salt of tartar is reported to have run down very low, and higher prices have been ruling on the Continent (38 to 40m. per 100 kilos. for first-quality). English carbonate (90 to 92 per cent.) is 17s. 6d. to 18s. per cwt., and there is no disposition to raise the price in view of over-production.

QUICKSILVER.—The market is fairly firm at 7*1*/₂l. 2s. per bottle in second hands. Mr. A. S. Pickering gives the following statement of the position:—

Imports.					
		1898	1897	1896	1895
February ...	bottles	10,970	16,760	22,030	16,668
January-February	"	16,939	17,004	22,149	17,268

Exports.					
		1898	1897	1896	1895
February ...	bottles	2,239	1,777	2,829	2,042
January-February	"	4,687	3,579	6,566	4,466

Average Price.					
		1898	1897	1896	1895
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
February ...	...	7 0 0	6 16 6	7 1 6	6 9 0

An arrival of 5,000 flasks is reported this week from Seville.

QUININE.—The s.s. *Bittern*, from Amsterdam, has arrived with a first lot of Java quinine—viz., 25 cases, each case containing 4 tins of 100 oz each, or 10,000 oz. altogether. Samples are being submitted to Dr. B. H. Paul for analysis. No price has yet been fixed, but there is no doubt that, if the quality is right, it will enter into competition with the German brands, which remain unchanged officially, but second-hand sellers have been doing business at 10*1*/₂d. per oz. The Imperial Quinine Company's brand is offered at 11d. per oz., or for large quantities 10*2*/₃d. per oz. would be accepted. Pelletier's brand is 1s. 4d. per oz. The market is quiet on the whole, and little business is passing.

RHUBARB.—Canton is firm, because scarce, but unchanged in value, which applies to other sorts. A good deal of business was done immediately after the auctions last week.

SAFFRON.—We hear from Valencia that several French houses have recently been buying all the saffron they could

lay their hands upon, which partly accounts for the recent rise in prices. Altogether about 4,000 lbs. changed hands in January, as compared with 1,450 lbs. in January, 1897. There is no business doing in London.

SAESAPARILLA.—A small business has been done at 1s. 4d. for Lima-Jamaica on the spot. Twenty bales have come to hand, per *Essequibo*, from Jamaica.

SCAMMONIUM.—Since the drug-sales last week business has been done in virgin scammony at 32s. per lb.

SEEDS.—*Coriander* is lower; privately fair sales have been made at 8s. for ordinary, and at 9s. for fine Casablanca seed. *Fenugreek* sells slowly at 11s. per cwt. for Syrian, and at 12s. to 12s. 6d. for Morocco. There is very little demand for *Anise*, some clean Mediterranean sold recently at 19s. 6d. per cwt. *Cumin* steady, with sales of good old crop Malta at 24s. 6d. to 25s. per cwt. *Mogador* is quoted at 23s. per cwt. *Canary* firm and more business doing at 25s. 6d. per qr. for Turkish, and at 27s. to 31s. for good to fine Morocco seed. *Caraways* steady at 19s. 6d. to 21s. for ordinary to good Dutch. *Linseed* dull at 43s. per qr. for clean bold bright.

SENNA.—There has been a fair inquiry for the lower grades, but without business, as holders are firm. One hundred and fifty bales have arrived from Bombay, and will be offered next week.

SHELLAC.—Since our last report the market has been very quiet, but steady. No auctions have been held this week, and no important sales have occurred. For TN, May or August delivery, 67s. per cwt. is asked, and April-June 63s. 6d., c.i.f.

SULPHONAL is still dealt out by the makers in famine lots of 10lbs. at 7s. 3d. per lb.

WAX, BEES'.—Madagascar of good quality is scarce, as much as 7l. 2s. 6d. per cwt. being asked for prime lots.

WAX, JAPAN, is quiet, at 33s. 6d. to 34s. per cwt., c.i.f., and at 36s. on the spot.

Heavy Chemicals.

There are slight changes only to be noted in the general condition of the heavy-chemical market, this week. A fairly steady and somewhat heavier business is being done, but there is little or no fluctuation to report. *Soda* crystals are in somewhat better demand, whilst *Sulphate of copper* has a quieter tone and *Chlorates* are flat. *Brown acetate of lime* is firm. *Bleaching-powder*, *Soda ash*, and *Caustic soda*, move steadily at unchanged rates, high strengths of the latter are very firm. *Coal-tar* products are on the whole in a fairly satisfactory condition, and brisk and moderately-heavy business has been done in *Carbolic acids*. Crude, 75 per cent, stands at 2s. 5d.; and 60 per cent, at 1s. 11d. to 2s. Crystals, 39-40°, 7d. to 7½d.; 34-35°, 6d. *Cresote* maintains a firm tone, and is selling freely at about 2½d. *Solvent naphtha*, 30 per cent, 7½d. to 8d. *Anthraeene*, A grade, 5d.; B grade, 4½d. *Aniline oil and salts* are still very low, and there is little being done in them, quotations for each range from 5½d. to 6d. *Pith* is in better demand. *Recovered sulphur* maintains a strong position, and is quoted 4l. 17s. 6d. to 5l., in bags, on rails. *South Durham salt* continues to move steadily, at 9s. f.o.b. Tees. *Borax* quiet, powdered, 14s. 6d.; Crystals, 14s. *Boracic acid*, 23s. to 25s. *Chlorate of potash* very quiet. London, 3½d.; Liverpool, 3½d. *Yellow prussiate of potash*, best Lancashire makes somewhat scarce, at 6½d. to 7d. Beckton, 6d. Demand for *Green copperas* has fallen off a little, but prices are steady. Welsh, at 28s. to 28s. 6d.; best Lancashire, 38s. to 40s. f.o.b. Liverpool. *Pierie acid* in fair request, at 11d. *Pearl-hardening* in heavy demand, at 3l. *Sulphate of ammonia* has declined, Hull, to 9l. 5s. to 9l. 7s. 6d. Leith, 9l. 7s. 6d. London, 9l. 10s. Beckton terms prompt, 9l. 10s. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 505 tons. *Benzols* dull, but unchanged.

The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on March 9, reports that the most notable feature of the week has been the advance in *Quillaia-bark*, which has risen from 16l. 10s. per ton to 19l. per ton, and now holders are asking 20l. per ton

with less disposition on the part of sellers to reduce their stocks at present prices. A little easier tone is noticeable in the market for *Castor oil*, an arrival of good seconds Calcutta having weakened the price, but hardly to quotable extent up to the time of writing, as 3½d. is still asked for good seconds Calcutta, and the same price for first pressure French, with offers of second pressure at 3½d. The market is still bare of Madras and Bombay varieties. Sales of *Kola nuts* are reported at 1½d. per lb. for dry from the quay, and fresh offer at slightly over this price. The hardening tendency in *Honeys* is still more apparent, and sales of Chilian pile X. are accomplished facts at 28s. per cwt., with some old imports at 26s. 6d. per cwt. *Oil, olive*, is in good demand, and spot holders show a firmer tone owing to the receipt of strong quotations from Malaga and Saville. *Beeswax* is still in good demand, but owing to the small supplies very little business is reported; Gambia is moving off in small lots at 6l. 15s. per cwt. *Sulphate of copper* is firm at 16l. 10s. per ton. In *Tonka beans* 3 cases small foxy Paras were sold at 4½d. per lb. A recent arrival of Maranham *Balsam copaiba* was sold at auction to go from the quay at 2s. to 2s. 0½d. per lb. A somewhat restricted business is passing in *Gum arabie* sorts, small lots of soft friable rather yellowish in colour changing hands at 75s. per cwt., the supply remaining very meagre. Medium grades are quietly steady, and there is some hope that the scarcity of good qualities will soon react upon the cheaper kinds, but at the present moment there is very little business passing in the latter. *Cream of tartar* is firmer at 78s. for first white French and Spanish crystals. In *Sierra Leone chillies* some business is passing, but importers want 45s. for fine, whereas buyers' views are about 42s. per cwt.

The Hamburg Drug-market.

Our Hamburg correspondent writes on March 8:—The drug-market is quiet, with very few changes since last week. *Agar-agar* continues to be firmly held, at 270m. per 100 kilos. *Russian Aniseed* is unchanged, at 40m. per 100 kilos. *Balsam Peru* is quiet, at 16½m. to 16¾m. per kilo. *Tolu* is also quiet, at 300m. per 100 kilos. *Zanzibar cloves* are quoted at 76m. per 100 kilos. *Condurango-bark* is steady, at 50m. per 100 kilos. *Cascara sagrada* a little easier, at 34m. to 33m. per 100 kilos. *Cedilla-sced* is quiet: a new lot of 300 bags has arrived, and has tended to depress the market; spot is quoted at 80m. per 100 kilos, but less would be taken. *Ergot of rye* shows little business; good quality is obtainable at 160m. per 100 kilos. *Quinine* is unchanged and quiet, at 30m. per kilo. *Quillaia-bark* is firm, and 35m. to 36m. per 100 kilos. is asked. *Japan wax* is a little firmer; spot is offered at 70m. per 100 kilos. *Carnauba wax* is steady, at 81m. to 140m. per 100 kilos, according to quality. *Spirits of turpentine* have been advancing rapidly, and showed a large business; spot is quoted 54m. per 100 kilos. *E.I. Tamarinds* are very firm; prices have run up to 34m. to 35m. per 100 kilos. In oils: *Castor* is quiet; first-pressing, on the spot, is offered at 59m.; March delivery, 58m. per 100 kilos. *Cod-liver oil*, 1897 non-congealing oil is offered at 64m., 1898 at 67m. per barrel. In *Essential oils*: *Russian anise* is firm, at 14½m. per kilo.; *Star anise* at 15½m. to 15¾m. *Clove oil* is very firm, at 6m. per kilo.; and *Peppermint oil* is steady—HGH at 5½m. per lb., and Japan at 6½m. per kilo.

THE British Consul in Belgrade gives the following as an instance of the method adopted by a British firm who wished to obtain a footing in Servia:—

A few weeks ago the Consulate was asked to recommend a suitable agent in Belgrade. The matter was one necessitating certain technical knowledge on the agent's part, and the choice of suitable persons was, therefore, limited. A recommendation was sent to the British firm with the explanation that it would be necessary to conduct their correspondence with Belgrade in German. Instead of acting on this advice, our people proceeded to communicate with their agent-designate in English, and informed the Consulate that no difficulty had hitherto been experienced by them in getting their own language accepted on the Continent.

No wonder the British Consul feels in despair about British trade in his district.



In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer. Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

Wanted, an Assistants' Union.

SIR.—There are various meanings attached to the word "union." Two are familiar—viz., (a) a combination for defensive and protective purposes, and (b) a workhouse. Unless steps be taken shortly for the former ends, the latter will be reached by many of us, whether we will or not.

Even for minor issues a union would be of service—as, for instance, in adjusting the relation as to "hours," &c., between employers and their helpers; for registering desirable and undesirable "situations"; in short, for effective action in any direction where trade-interests require it.

But, above all, it is a necessity if there is to be any future for the drug-trade, any prospect for workers other than to be "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to bloated capitalists and gigantic companies possessed of no bowels of compassion.

It is said that every soldier in the French army carries a marshal's baton in his knapsack; every citizen of the United States bears about with him the possibility of becoming President of the great Republic; and it was only, as it were, yesterday that every chemist's apprentice looked forward in due course to be a "governor." The prospect was not only a possibility, but a certainty to an industrious and ordinarily capable youth. The same future—even more assured—would be his to-day, but for one intervening foree—viz., the pack of company-wolves which threaten his pictured homestead.

Let assistants ponder the thought that, if they possessed and put into operation the organisation of British artisans, there is not one amongst them who could not reasonably hope—given average ability and energy—to become the proprietor of his own business.

The growth of the population is greater proportionately than the increase of qualified chemists, and there is only one reason why assistants should not contemplate each one a pharmacy of his own. What is this hindrance? Nothing but the suicidal action of these very assistants themselves!

If British commerce on the high seas were harried and pillaged by pirates, what would be thought of certificated seamen who, while longing to sail their own ships, manned the pirate-vessels to the destruction of their own hopes—especially if it were the case that the pirate craft could not sail a single knot except by the aid of these seamen? Would not chemists' assistants deem such seamen mad? And what can be the opinion of any sane man as to the practice of qualified men in carrying on the business of the companies by whose trading alone they are reduced to the rank of hirelings to the end of their days?

Do young men never contemplate their future? Are they butterflies, content to flit for a sunny hour in momentary enjoyment, with no thought of the clouded days of life's autumn, or the cold winter of old age? Have they never looked forward to see themselves worn with years of service, feeble with crippled health, still dragging out a life of toil for heartless shareholders, when they should rightly be taking it easy," with assistants of their own to help them?

To young men, throbbing with health and vigour, the few years of assistantship appear a long period, and for the sake of shorter hours and a larger salary during youth they "go to the stores," regardless of the long half-century stretching before them to grey hairs and the grave.

I have spoken of "wolves" and "pirates," and yet another simile seems equally appropriate (for company-pharmacy is many-headed in its cruel power), and perhaps the octopus should be its registered trade-mark. And when the tentacles

of this octopus have sucked down into suffocation every independent trader; when no alternative but the "cutter" exists for the qualified man; when, in place of the twenty ordinary businesses supplying a town's needs, one grasping "company" monopolises the trade of the district, and thus the assistant's choice becomes limited—how long, does he imagine, will continue these advantages for which he barter his life's hopes? Already there are signs of the breakdown of even these momentary gains. I know a company store which is often open till 9 P.M., as well as on Bank holidays. Let the butterflies think of that.

I make no appeal to young men for the sake of employers or others—certainly not for myself. My battles are mostly behind me, and I have no son whose interests I am contemplating. I appeal to them as sensible men to look after their own future, their own life, through the years when youth's fleeting pleasures have become buried in the cares which come with 40, 50, 60 years of age, when they see other tradesmen independent citizens, masters over their own domain, while they themselves are hireling slaves at the bidding of company taskmasters.

Do these young men never contemplate marriage? What women of education or position, do they think, will marry assistants or "managers" with the prospect of being discharged at a month's notice? And how will they endure the sight of the grocer's son, or the baker's daughter being educated at "high schools," while their own children must attain the fifth standard at the Board school?

I suppose a salary of 300*l.* a year under a company would be regarded as excellent, though not many such princely salaries are available. But in their own businesses there is scope for a much larger income than this. The companies' returns divided among individual traders would set up for life all the assistants who now are unable to call soul or body their own. And, let them remember, this possibility is no idle dream—it is at their very hand; and, if they possess the spirit of Bitons who "never shall be slaves," they will rally to the onslaught with the certainty of victory. Let them combine, and refuse to step-nurse the cold-blooded tyranny of company-chemists; for, as they know, not a single branch shop can be maintained an hour without the consent and co-operation of a qualified man.

I have asked a number of questions; they are intended respectfully for assistants' own self-inquiry, and on their practical reply depends their life future. Let them continue in the present course, and their prospect will become increasingly gloomy. Continue to study the present momentary advantage, and assistants will construct the gallows on which their own life's happiness will be strangled; for to prefer shorter hours and a larger salary in youth, irrespective of the systems supported, is deliberately to commit the suicide of their own career. Never since Esau sold his birthright for a single meal has more mad folly existed.

He who would be free himself must strike the blow.

Again I beg assistants to combine while yet there is opportunity; for, taking the tide at the flood it will lead on to fortune as well as liberty. But, on the other hand, let them drift on the current of indolence, and for them life will be "bound in shallows and in miseries."

Respectfully yours,

TOCSIN. (114/61.)

P.S.—Since drafting the above I observe, with delight, in your columns of March 5 that the Edinburgh Assistants' Association has already struck the note I have endeavoured to sound. Bravo, Edinburgh! "Draw the sword, Scotland!" Would not the P.A.T.A. find this subject a much more stirring rallying-cry than their almost hopeless effort to control those wretched "patents"?

The Irish Licence Examination Criticised.

SIR.—Perhaps some of your readers would like to peruse the experiences of one unfortunate who tasted the bitters of failure at the recent Pharmaceutical Licence examination in Ireland.

A relation of the experiences of successful candidates is inclined to be tinged with a prejudice in favour of the existing system. On the other hand, a rejected candidate is obviously biased in another direction, small existing discrepancies being viewed as glaring enormities. It must be for your readers to strike a happy medium and arrive at something near the truth.

I arrived at the trysting-place in Lower Mount Street at the time appointed. All the candidates probably felt like sufferers waiting to see a dentist. For myself I know I experienced a sensation much resembling sea-sickness.

Mr. Smith, our examiner, was very considerate, and endeavoured to make us feel at ease during the oral, as, indeed, did all our examiners. However, as I am bent on criticism only, I will pass on to the Chemistry examination on the following day.

In the oral I got only three questions. One was, What is the difference between a mechanical mixture and a chemical compound? and what simple test would you apply to prove their identities? The other two questions related to the manufacture of carbolic acid, and the analogy existing between alcohol and sodium ethylate. These three questions could hardly be said to cover a wide area or to suffice to demonstrate the thoroughness of a student's knowledge of chemistry; and yet Mr. Doran complains of the want of thoroughness displayed by the candidates.

The paper I thought better suited to a pharmaceutical examination than many I had previously seen from the same examiner; but I thought ambiguity and indefiniteness of expression prevailed, and that many of the questions were outside the curriculum of pharmaceutical chemistry, as defined in the syllabus. [Our correspondent gives no instances in support of this allegation.]

In the Practical Pharmacy examination I got a prescription directing me to prepare six suppositories, twelve powders, and a $\frac{3}{4}$ v.j.-mixture.

For the powders I required, besides other ingredients, 36 gr. of quinine. I emptied the two quinine bottles in the room, and then had not enough; I was directed to substitute mag. carb. pond. for the deficiency.

The mixture contained ol. ricini and ol. terebinth. After searching all the lockers in the place I discovered two $\frac{3}{4}$ v.j.-bottles; one was cracked, and the other oily. I decided to use the cracked one. A hunt for turpentine was then inaugurated, and the combined efforts of myself and Mr. Whitha failed to bring to light any turpentine. Turpentine was off. After some delay Mr. Ferrall, the Registrar, volunteered his aid, and procured some after a subterranean exploration of the cellars at the basement of the house. Such things as bone spatulas, glass stirring-rods, a proper supply of bottles, labels, and drugs are evidently regarded as superfluities. I had to abbreviate the dimensions of a mixture-label in order to meet the requirements of a powder-box, and could find no waxed paper with which to envelop my suppositories.

For the incompleteness of the arrangements in the Society's rooms and the insufficiency of apparatus any candidate who has been there can vouch. I hope when next I visit that sanctum of pharmacy to find things more complete, to be so myself, and never again to be

REJECTED. (107/56.)

[It will be seen that our correspondent gives a very imperfect account of the examination, and his criticism of the chemistry paper leaves much to be desired. But as we print at times the reports of examiners on the weakness of candidates whom they reject, it is only fair that the latter should have their say; and we agree that if the provision for dispensing is correctly stated, the candidate who is in unfamiliar surroundings to begin with, is unfairly handicapped. —ED. C. & D.]

Tinctura Opii.

SIR,—Considerable difference of opinion exists as to the correct way of making tr. opii, B.P.—whether $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of shipment opium should be used to each Oj. of proof spirit, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of dried opium. In my opinion shipment opium ought to be dried by water-oven, and then $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of the dried opium taken for each pint to make the resulting tincture 75 per cent. morphine. This is based on the fact that opium when dried should yield about 10 per cent. morphine. Your opinion will be welcome, and perhaps some of your readers would like to express their views.

Yours truly,
OPIUM. (114/11.)

[The general practice and correct one is to use opium which contains 10 per cent. of morphine when dried; the trouble is that there is little opium so poor.]

Dentists Act Guarantee Fund.

W. P. (111/68) writes:—"In the event of your considering it advisable to carry a case under the Dentists Act to the High Court, I shall be prepared to subscribe one guinea to same."]

[Any chemist who may be threatened with an action should communicate with us promptly.]

Public Dispensers.

SIR,—I read with much interest the able address of Dr. Macnaughton-Jones to the Public Dispensers' Association reported in your last issue. The lecturer recounted his early experiences in the hope that such would stimulate the assistant and public dispenser to do likewise. That, I maintain, is nowadays impossible. The General Medical Council, for instance, compel candidates for a qualification in medicine to attend their lectures, &c., in the daytime, and will recognise no evening-classes, thereby debarring many from pushing themselves on. And where is the dispenser of the present day to obtain the necessary funds to improve his general culture? No matter what zeal and energy he may be gifted with, he has but a poor chance to improve himself on the miserable pittance he receives as salary. In your advertisements secretaries of public institutions advertising for dispensers, who must be this and that, offering as salary 80*l.* per annum, which is nothing short of an insult. I hope men with self-respect will fight shy of such vacancies. One cannot help seeing the frequency with which they appear in the columns of the *C. & D.*; and I delight in finding these secretaries put to so much trouble and expense in having constantly to advertise, which is proof that they are unsuccessful in retaining the services of those dispensers who think anything of themselves.

I am very pleased public dispensers are at last combining, and I heartily wish the newly-formed association the success it deserves.

Faithfully yours,

March 8. A PROVINCIAL DISPENSER. (115/65.)

What the Chemist has to put up with.

SIR,—I had to deal with the following very different prescriptions in one day recently, and, I ask you, what are things coming to?

Spartein.	period.	...	...	gr. j.
Cypripedin	...	...	...	gr. j.
Scutellarin	...	...	...	gr. j.
Musk (dried)	...	...	...	gr. j.
Barii chloridi	...	...	...	gr. j.

Ft. pil. Mitte tales xxiv.

J. M. G.

I have samples of cypripedin and scutellarin if you have not come across them. Have you ever seen the following? It was printed exactly as below:—

From the Rev. J. E. Woodrow, The Vicarage, Ormskirk.
A sure and certain preventive and cure for influenza.

Pure phenol calverts No. 1 (prepared for internal use), 24 drops in an 8-oz. bottle of water, and well mixed. Dose: Two table-spoonfuls three times in twenty-four hours. Children: Half the dose. One dose will be enough to prevent, three doses to cure.

The dose to prevent should not be taken till the symptoms of influenza (cold, chill, pains, &c.) show themselves; then one dose will stop it in half an hour.

Price of the medicine 3*d.* to 6*d.*, according to the profits of the chemist!!! The medicine taken as above is perfectly harmless, and may be taken by anyone at any time.

This medicine was given me by a physician in the West Indies as a sure remedy for malarial and other fevers. I came to the conclusion that influenza was a kind of low fever, and tried the remedy with success. I have used it in scores of cases without a single failure.

J. E. W.

I happen to be a humble Major man, and between the drafts on my learning and underselling of what the record President of the Pharmaceutical Society was wont to call "skill and knowledge," I feel that I have mistaken my vocation.

Yours truly,
PHAR. CHEM. (97/30.)

DISPENSING NOTES.

100/3. G. M. S.—Codeia is soluble 1 in 80 of water. Triturate the codeia with the water, and use a little heat.

95/66. *Anno Domini*.—Tincture of iron and mucila ge o acacia are incompatible. This is the cause of your mi xtur going thick.

93/28. *Carrick*.—The precipitate formed on mixing solutions of ammonium chloride and potassium bicarbonate is ammonium carbonate. It is upon this reaction that Solvay's ammonia-soda process is based.

LEGAL QUERIES.

103/20. *Doubtful* puts the case of a testator whose executors are his three children. A part of the estate is a row of cottages, the rents of which are shared, and before they are sold one of the children, a daughter, dies without children. The question put is whether she could appoint her husband executor in her place and will her share go to him? "Doubtful" does not say whether the property is freehold or leasehold nor what interest the daughter had under the will. If she had an absolute interest she can will it to anyone she likes. If she died intestate her husband was entitled to take out letters of administration if it is leasehold; but if it is freehold it goes to her heir-at-law. If she appointed her husband executor of her will he would not thereby become an executor of the father's will, the other executors being still alive. If the daughter died after January 1, 1898, her real estate, both freehold and leasehold, vests in her legal personal representative, who would be her husband on his taking out letters of administration or proving her will.

112/8. *Hotspur*.—The necessity of a hawker's licence does not depend on leaving goods with the purchaser. Showing samples of goods to be afterwards delivered makes a person a hawker. But the licence need not be taken by representatives who sell to retailers, nor by persons who sell the goods which they are the actual makers of.

106/74. *Zero* asks whether an agreement not to commence business within a certain radius without imposing any specified penalty or prescribing a limit of time is binding. A solicitor has told him that unless a definite period of time is fixed the agreement is not valid. [The only test of a covenant in restraint of trade is whether the same is reasonable. No penalty need be specified, nor is any limit of time necessary, if the limit of space and other conditions are not unreasonable. "Zero" probably misunderstood the solicitor, as there are dozens of cases where it has been held that a limit of time is not necessary. Even where a penalty is named the person entitled to the benefit of the covenant can get an injunction instead of enforcing the penalty.]

114/24. *R. W.*—If the American firm's label is registered in this country as a trade-mark, as it probably is, the picture would no doubt be regarded as an essential part of the trade-mark. In any case it is likely they could get an injunction against you if you were to use a design which they have had drawn for them.

113/62. *Stockholm*.—You cannot register an "inhaler" under the Trade-marks Act. You can only register the name you give it, and that only if the word is registrable. It would come under Class XI, "instruments for curative purposes." If you want to protect a new principle in the construction of the inhaler you must patent it; if it is merely a new shape you can register it as a design.

108/47. *Subscriber*.—Since answering your previous query we have made further inquiries, and are informed that a case has been decided to the effect that a house on wheels is not exempt from the London Building Act of 1894. We regret that we cannot refer you to the case; but, apart from that, we should certainly not take the responsibility of advising you to proceed with the erection without first getting the sanction of the L.C.C.

111/13. *A. B. M.* submits the case of a chemist who tells a customer that he has not a certain proprietary medicine in stock; offers to get it, but advises the customer not to take it; says it is a quack medicine which will do no good, and offers to make him up something better and cheaper.

The customer accepts the proposal, but, after taking three bottles, decides to try the proprietary article, and writes to the makers telling them what the chemist said. We are asked—(1) Was the chemist's statement libellous? and (2) Is he liable to any prosecution for making up the medicine? (1) In the event of an action being brought for defamation of goods, or for defamation of character, the question would be one for the jury, and it is just as likely they would hold the chemist liable as not. The chemist ought to be prepared with some good reason for what he said about the preparation if he intends to plead justification. There was a somewhat similar case reported quite lately with reference to a printing-machine, in which the jury held the alleged slanderer liable. (2) Yes; under the Apothecaries Act. But a prosecution can only be undertaken with the sanction of the Apothecaries' Society. See *Apothecaries' Company v. Allen*, 4 B. and Ad. 625, and *Apothecaries' Company and Greenough*, 1 Q.B., 799.

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

We reply to our subscribers and their employees only; queries must, therefore, be authenticated by the name and address of the subscriber. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and the name of the querist should be placed on the sample. Queries are not replied to by post.

98/50. *P. B.* We are unable to trace any official Analytical Standards for Oil of Lemon which have been adopted by the Italian Government. The matter is quite the other way, for although an Act to prohibit the exportation of adulterated oil has been passed, it has not been enforced.

96/39. *Xtopher*.—Cheap Baking-powder:—

Potass. sulph. acid.	...	...	...	3 <i>ij.</i>
Sodii bicarb.	...	...	...	3 <i>viii.</i>
Pulv. oryzæ	...	...	...	3 <i>xvij.</i>

M.

99/38. *L. Z.*—There are several makers of anti-diphtheritic serum advertising in the 1898 DIARY.

103/8. *Rising*.—Your sample of Baking-powder is made from a formula like that given in reply to 96/39 ("Xtopher").

100/48. *H. C. N.*—Moustache-fixature:—

Mastic...	...	...	...	...	3 <i>ij.</i>
Sandarae	...	...	...	...	3 <i>ss.</i>
Resin	...	...	...	...	3 <i>ss.</i>
Rectified spirit	...	...	...	...	3 <i>ij.</i>
Ess. bouquet	...	...	...	...	3 <i>ss.</i>
Ether	...	...	...	...	3 <i>ij.</i>

Dissolve and filter.

101/71. *Depilatory*.—The Best Depilatory is the barium one; the secret of its success is due to the use of fresh barium sulphide. It can be prepared by making barium sulphate and its own weight of charcoal into a paste with linseed oil, rolling the paste into the shape of a sausage and placing it on a bright fire to incinerate. When it has ceased to burn and is a white-hot mass, remove from the fire, cool, and powder.

101/63. *Dispenser*.—We do not give formulæ for proprietary articles.

89/26. *Hypo*.—(1) Eikonogen is soluble 1 in 25 of water; metol, 1 in 24; hydroquinone, 1 in 20. (2) Emetics, stimulants, and coffee are the Antidotes to benzine, paraffin oil, and hellebore. (3) We have heard the laboratory-still well spoken of; the principle is good.

94/27. *Quesitor*.—The directions for brown-leather cream (February 12, 1898, page 295) are drawn up so as to avoid risk of firing during the process. We have found no difficulty in turning out a cream; your failure was, perhaps, due to not stirring till quite cold.

94/69. *Gallus*.—Condiment for Hens.—The following will suit your requirements:—

Black pepper...	...	...	...	3 <i>iv</i>
Sulphate of iron	...	...	...	3 <i>j</i>
Powdered egg-shells	...	...	...	3 <i>xj</i>

Mix.

Two teaspoonfuls are to be mixed with the food for twelve hens.

99/25. *E. H. F.*—The formulae for cough-mixtures you want were given in *C. & D.*, September 11, 1897, page 472, and October 20, 1897, page 712.

94/20. *Nemo*.—The formula for glycerole of saffron is given on page 273, THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1897.

106/69. *Bacillus*.—It is permanganate of potash which is used in the treatment of sewage. There are no processes employed using cyanide.

108/41. *Trional*.—“Recent Materia Medica,” by F. H. Lescher (Churchill), is the book you require.

109/16. *P. L.*—To Remove Aniline Marking-ink Stains from Linen, try the alternate application of either nitric acid or peroxide of hydrogen and methylated spirit or spirit of ether.

107/32. *Camduox*.—Clarke's Soap-solution.—Dissolve 1 oz. of best white soap in 1 gal. of proof spirit, and adjust it so that it requires 32 measures to be added to 100 measures of chloride-of-calcium solution (as below) before it lathers. Chloride-of-calcium Solution.—Dissolve 16 gr. of pure carbonate of lime in a small quantity of pure hydrochloric acid. Evaporate to dryness, and dissolve the residue in water and dilute to 1 gal. This makes a standard solution of sixteen degrees of hardness.

107/3. *W. B. S.*—The British Pharmacopœia is the best text-book you can have for the Registered Druggists' examination of the Pharmaceutical Society. It is a very simple examination.

105/40. *A. F.*—Peroxide of hydrogen is used for cleaning engravings. Oil-paintings are renovated by careful washing with soap and water and re-varnishing, or, if the varnish has disintegrated, it is dissolved off by using a suitable solvent; and, bearing in mind that the basis of the colours is often soluble in the same medium, it will be seen that this operation requires especial care.

253/20 *J. S.*—The reference you give to the *Lancet*, 1868, is an inquiry as to the composition of “Baume contre les Mosquitos,” obtained from Florence by Mr. Foster, of Bishopsgate Street. Mr. Foster might be able to supply you with the remedy.

107/65. *Sylvine*.—You mean, probably, a Sauce of the Worcester Type, such as this:—

Liver	...	...	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Water	...	...	...	...	...	10 gals.

Boil twelve hours, frequently renewing the water. Chop up the liver, work with the water, pass through a sieve, and mix with the following:—

White vinegar	...	...	...	...	15 gals.
Walnut ketchup	...	...	...	...	10 gals.
Mushroom ketchup	...	...	...	...	10 gals.
Madeira wine...	...	...	...	...	5 gals.
Table-salt	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Canton soy	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Cayenne pepper (brunised)	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Ginger (bruised)	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Black pepper (powdered)	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Allspice (powdered)...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Coriander (powdered)	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Mace	...	...	...	...	1 <i>lb.</i>
Cinnamon	...	...	...	...	1 <i>lb.</i>
Assafœtida (dissolved in 1 gal. of brandy)	...	...	...	...	1 <i>lb.</i>

Allow to stand for a month and strain.

106/66. *A. A. C.*—Read the notice at the head of this section.

Coming Events.

We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.

Monday, March 14.

Society of Chemical Industry (London Section), Chemical Society's Rooms, Burlington House, W., at 8 P.M. “Electrical Industries at the Foyers Waterfall.” By Mr. R. W. Wallace.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin. Evening meeting at 8 P.M. “Mixtures and their Difficulties.”

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C., at 8 P.M. Cantor Lecture, I.: “The Thermo-chemistry of the Bessemer Process.” By Professor W. N. Hartley, F.R.S.

London Chamber of Commerce, Botolph House, Eastcheap, E.C. Monthly dinner. Subject for discussion, “Adulteration and Misrepresentation.” Sir Charles Cameron will preside.

Tuesday, March 15.

Royal Photographic Society, 12 Hanover Square, W., at 8 P.M. “Halftone-negative Making.” By Mr. W. H. Lascelles.

Wednesday, March 16.

Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy, Newburg Hall Caupon Place, at 9 P.M. Social evening, Mr. W. H. Gibson in the chair.

Irish Pharmacists' Assistants' Association, 67 Lower Mount Street Dublin, at 8.15 P.M. Social evening.

North of England School of Pharmacy, Newcastle. Third annual ball at Grand Assembly Rooms, Barras Bridge. Tickets: Gentlemen, 5*s.*; ladies, 3*s.*; double, 7*s.* 6*d.* Dancing to commence at 8 P.M. At 7.30 a presentation will be made to Mr. and Mrs. Merson in the Refreshment Room.

Plymouth, Devonport, Stowhouse and District Chemists' Association, Lantern lecture, “The Structure of Foliage-leaves.” By Mr. J. D. Turney.

Royal Microscopical Society, 20 Hanover Square, W., at 8 P.M. An exhibition of mounted rotifers by Mr. C. F. Rousset.

Western Chemists' Association, at Westbourne Restaurant, Craven Road, W., at 9 P.M. Discussion on the proposed alteration of the name of the Association.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (North British Branch), 36 York Place, Edinburgh. Evening meeting at 8.30. Mr. J. Laidlaw Ewing in the chair. “The Determination of Ash as an Analytical Method,” by Mr. D. B. Dott; “A Syringe for Filling Capsules,” by Mr. J. A. Forret; “Invisible and Sympathetic Inks,” and “Methylated Spirit in Photography,” by Mr. J. Rutherford Hill. Additions to library and museum.

Thursday, March 17.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, W., at 9 P.M. Demonstration of water-analysis by Mr. E. W. Hill.

Liverpool Chemists' Association. Annual dinner at the Adelphi Hotel, at 7.30 P.M. Tickets, 5*s.* each, from members of the Council or Mr. H. O. Dutton, Rock Ferry.

Chemical Society, Burlington House, at 8 P.M. Papers to be read:—“The Reduction of Bromic Acid and the Law of Mass-action,” by Messrs. W. Judson, B.Sc., and J. W. Walker, M.A.; “The Action of Ferric Chloride on the Ethereal Salts of Ketone Acids,” by Messrs. R. S. Morell, M.A., and J. M. Crofts, B.A.; “Note on the Volatility of Sulphur,” by Mr. T. C. Porter; “Action of Ammonia and Substituted Ammonias on Acetylarethane,” by Messrs. G. Young, Ph.D., and E. Clark.

North Staffordshire and District Chemists' Association, at 5 P.M. Annual dinner at the Copeland Arms Hotel, Stoke.

Friday, March 18.

Burgoyne, Burbidges' Cricket Club. Second annual smoking-concert, at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street, E.C., at 7.30 P.M.

Sheffield Microscopical Society. “The Helps and Hindrances of the Microscope as a Scientific Instrument.” By Mr. W. White.

Leicester Chemists' Social Union.—The annual dinner will take place at the Wyvern Hotel on Tuesday, March 29, at 8.30 P.M. Tickets, 2*s.* 6*d.* each, can be obtained from Mr. F. W. Goddess, Hon. Secretary, Hotel Street, Leicester.

